DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to the demands for grants.

DEMAND 1. LAND REVENUE.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 8·77 lakhs under Demand I—Land Revenue.

PRESIDENT: I see there are two motions relating to the reduction of the allotment for establishment, one for the reduction of Rs. 6,000 and another for the reduction of Rs. 4,800. May I take it that these two motions are identical?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Motion 1.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I beg leave to make the following motion:—

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,693 for establishment by Rs. 6,000.

ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷണിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അവിടെയുള്ള സിൽബന്ധി ചിലവുകളിലും, പ്രാദേശികപ്പടികളിലും ന്യായം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ കായ്ക്ഷമതയുള്ള യാതൊരു കുറവും വരുന്നതല്ല. ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷണിൽ രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളേയുള്ളു. അതിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ജനവാസമുള്ളതായ പലേ പകുതികളെയും മറു താലൂക്കുകളോടു ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതി, വഞ്ചിപ്പുഴ ചീഫിന്റേയും പലെ കമ്പനിക്കാരുടേയും കയ്യിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികളുടെ വിവരം, ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷന്റെ ആവശ്യമില്ലായ്മ. ഇവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ ഡാമിനിക്ക് തൊമ്മൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഭംഗിയായി വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയും വിധം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തു വേണ്ടപോലെ ജോലിയില്ലാത്തതായ ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷണിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും അതുസംബന്ധമായ മറു ചിലവുകളും ആ തോതിനു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ന്യൂ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഭൂനികുതിയുള്ളതും രണ്ടു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ തെക്കൻ ഡിവിഷണേയും അവിടേയുള്ള ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെയും കുറച്ചുകളയാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു പ്രയാസമില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ വൺ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഭൂനികുതിയുള്ളതും ഒരു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷണേയൊ അതിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളേയോ, അവിടെ വളർന്നു വരുന്ന മറു ചിലവുകളേയൊ കുറച്ചു കളയുന്നതിനുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടിപ

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

തിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യം തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ മനോഗതി ഇങ്ങനെ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾ നിയമസഭയിലുള്ള അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥാംഗങ്ങളുടെ ശക്തിയിലെത്തുന്ന അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ പുലത്തിവച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ നൂറു രൂപായും കുറക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ശിപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I oppose that motion.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Devicolam Division has been given the least number of clerks possible and there is no possible way in which we can reduce the number of clerks and the establishment without interfering with the work to a very great extent. The member has not made out any case why it should be reduced. On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary that we keep to the present allotment and it is absolutely impossible to reduce the present staff any further.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will Mr. Robinson be pleased to state whether there is any necessity for having a Commissioner at Devicolam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That division is, in certain matters, very different from other divisions. It is very inaccessible and is not easily get-at-able from the plains. It has got peculiar features of its own and if we try to work it from Kottayam, the revenue would suffer. It is necessary that, before making such a suggestion, the member should go and see the features of the country. There are practically no means of communication. On the plains, the *pakuthies* are not half a mile apart; but in Devicolam one has to go sometimes a distance of twenty miles to go from one *pakuthi* to another. It takes practically a whole day to go from one *pakuthi* to another. Although there are only two taluks, considering the peculiar features of the country, the want of proper means of communication, and the inaccessible nature of the various *pakuthies* of the place, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a separate division

PRESIDENT: Has any other gentleman anything to say in regard to the motion?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish also to support the motion. With respect to the query raised by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, I thought there would have been some substantial reason shown for the retention of the division. But on hearing Mr. Robinson, I feel that absolutely nothing has been made out by him for

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the retention of that division. The only plea that Mr. Robinson has to urge in support of the retention of this particular division is the peculiar nature of the division itself. He further pointed out that the division is inaccessible and is not capable of being managed from Kottayam. Now, Sir, similar administrative difficulties have been experienced in the low-lying regions in Travancore and a device has been found by the Government in the matter by appointing Division Assistants to particular localities where there is any difficulty. A similar arrangement, I am submitting, is quite sufficient for looking after this Devicolam Division; and the creation and retention of a Commissioner of Devicolam are absolutely out of proportion to the requirements of the case. Therefore, I am perfectly at one with Mr. Kumara Pillai in the matter of urging the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, one of the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson was that we, low-landers, cannot appreciate the difficulties incidental to the administration of the highland division. I claim some knowledge of the highland division. I am submitting that, although the area is 1,120 sq. miles, only 14 per cent. of the area is cultivated, and there is only a population of 56,000 odd, of which the major portion is made up of migratory labour. As regards the revenue collection, the major portion is from lands registered under the Coffee Land Rules, now known as the Revised Waste Lands Rules; and in these cases the revenue is payable directly into the treasury and no *proverthikar* or other staff is necessary. The next head of revenue is that from the cardamom estates and they also are very easy to manage. Registry under the ordinary *puduval* rules is rare.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will the member be pleased to say how it would be possible to detect encroachments in the cardamom estates ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As regards encroachments in the cardamom hills, at present there are very few such cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Will Mr. Krishna Aiyar give me the figures ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I sent several questions to Government and also gave notice of a resolution in regard to the Devicolam Division. The interpellations have not been answered by Government. I therefore assume that my presumption about the work in that division is correct.

PRESIDENT: As regards your interpellations, Mr. Krishna Aiyar, they have lapsed, and you have not repeated them, so far as I remember.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As I have not been answered till now, I presume that my impression is correct and I base my remarks on the same. So far as the revenue work is concerned, there is very little work; because, as I have already

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

pointed out, most of the revenue is payable directly into the treasury. In respect of transfer of registry and *karampatippu* cases there are very few current cases. Six or seven *pakuthies* have now been transferred to the Changanachery and Minachil taluks. The criminal work there is also very light.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether the member has got figures of the work due to criminal, civil, and revenue cases?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): There also I had applied for information but did not get them. I therefore submit from my own information that there are very few cases. If Mr. Robinson is in a position to correct me, I would request him to give the information. On these grounds I would submit that that division does not deserve to exist. When it was part of the Kottayam Division, it was administered very well.

The number of Europeans there is only 114. I am sure they would not insist on having a European Commissioner. I believe they would also help us in the matter. I am sure they would tell us that they have perfect faith in the Indian administration and do not want a special Commissioner for themselves. Therefore it cannot be pleaded that it is on behalf of the 114 Europeans that a separate division has been created and the costly establishment kept up.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I would also beg to say a few words. I believe that the real reasons that the Government keep in view in maintaining a Commissioner for Devicolam is the necessity to have a European officer there, in consideration of the fact that there is a large number of planters and other Europeans in the High Ranges. I am one of those who are prepared to recognise the valuable work done by the European planters in the High Ranges. But for them, the High Ranges would have remained as inhospitable as they were some years back. Devicolam which was so much feared by people of the plains is now a sanatorium; and Government also are realising considerable sums of money from the High Ranges. The day will come when the revenue from the High Ranges will not be less than the revenue in any other division in Travancore. Large numbers of people from the plains are now migrating to Devicolam for settlement.

Mr. Robinson said that there are no means of communication. Sir, that has been all along the subject of our complaint to the Government. For several years past we have been complaining against the prodigal expenditure on buildings and have been urging the necessity for roads and other means of communication. We should also recognise the fact that the European planters have come very much to our rescue by undertaking to open roads at their own cost on Government agreeing to contribute a share. It is because of the longstanding neglect in the matter of means of communication that that division has not received proper attention at the hands of Government in the matter of

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communications. I happen to remember a circumstance and it is mainly that which made me speak a few words now. Some time ago there was a proposal that the Police work in the several districts in Travancore should be entrusted to the D. S. P's. in Kottayam and Quilon. At that time the arrangement was that the High Ranges should be placed in the direct charge of the Commissioner of Police who lived far away in Trivandrum. So, I refuse to believe that the difficulty is one of communication. I prefer to believe that it is on account of certain delicate circumstances and also on account of the fact that the Europeans may like to have a European officer in the High Ranges. The Travancore Government is prepared to respect their feelings. I am not at all for disrespecting the feelings of the Europeans. The Travancore Government ought to give all possible help to them as well as to others in the matter of further developing the High Ranges where they have been doing much work to the benefit of the State. But, the maintenance of a Commissioner is of absolutely no use even to the European community. Probably, as my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested, if it is absolutely essential—for my part I do not believe it is so—that there should be a European officer there, a European Division Assistant may be appointed and until the Europeans become acclimatised to new arrangements, the European Division Assistant might be retained there. The post of a Revenue Commissioner in Devicolam is absolutely unnecessary.

MR S C. H. ROBINSON: (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): What would Mr. Velu Pillai suggest instead of a Revenue Commissioner?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambala uzha*): Louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I ask Mr. Velu Pillai what he would suggest instead of the Revenue Commissioner.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): As regards revenue matters, I am for placing Devicolam also under the jurisdiction of the Kottayam Peishkar. Time was when that was the arrangement, and Devicolam did not suffer much when it was under the Kottayam Peishkar. Well, Sir, I am sure that I am saying this in the interests of the public at large. Kanjirapalli may be made the headquarters of the Division Assistant.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything further. It is absolutely necessary in the interests of public revenue to abolish the post of Devicolam Commissioner and to accept the suggestion of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and appoint a Division Assistant who may be a European if necessary.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The importance of the Devicolam Division cannot be judged by its population or area. It is true that it was managed by the Kottayam

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Peishkar, but he was not able to adequately discharge his work in the Devicolam Division.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I beg to ask in what particular matters he was not able to adequately discharge his work.

MR. R KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Land revenue administration, encouragement of cultivation, etc.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask the Chief Secretary for a comparative statement of the steps taken for the encouragement of cultivation, of land revenue administration and other things, under the present arrangement, and also when Devicolam was under the Kottayam Peishkar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I can prepare the statement and give the member, if necessary. I have not got it ready.

PRESIDENT: He bases his observations on what impression he has now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): As he is the Chief Secretary, I asked for the information. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I wish to know, Sir, whether the five minutes assigned to each member is exclusive of the time taken up by answering questions put to him. If it were otherwise, official members cannot find time to answer the various points raised by non-officials.

There is considerable scope for development in the Devicolam Division. When the proposed road from Peermade to Devicolam is opened, there will be a large extent of land still available for cultivation.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will it not be time enough to revive the post of the Commissioner when there is adequate demand for lands?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Even otherwise a Commissioner will be necessary for Devicolam, because it is far away from the plains.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether a Division Assistant will not be able to do the work.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible for a Division Assistant to do the work. He is at Peermade far away from Devicolam.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What is the time taken for a man to go from Peermade to Devicolam and from Kottayam to Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): About four days for the journey from Devicolam to Peermade.

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It takes only about three hours for a journey from Kottayam to Peermade.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As far as I can understand, the whole thing turns round a sort of sentiment. The European Commissioner is placed there because it is a European colony. That seems to be more or less the cause of the appointment. Travancore is indebted to the Europeans to a very great extent, as Mr. Velu Pillai correctly pointed out. The whole of the High Range would have been lying waste if it had been left to itself. The Europeans are pioneers of the place and have made a little paradise of the whole country. It is absolutely necessary for us to admit that they have done a great deal for Travancore in this respect.

Now the angle of vision is changed. The Europeans there are some of the finest fellows.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know, Sir, whether, in the light of the discussion that has taken place till now, Mr. Hoogewerf is justified in referring to European colonisation and the need therefore for having a European Commissioner?

PRESIDENT: I think he refers to it because Mr. Velu Pillai referred to it. For my part, I think it is irrelevant. I may point out that the post of the Devicolam Commissioner is itself non-votable.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I just mentioned the fact. Without statistics we are not able to argue this point properly. I would say, as mentioned by Mr. Velu Pillai, that the Europeans there do not mind at all, as far as my information goes, whether they are tried by an Indian magistrate or by an African or Red-Indian. They want only justice. Those days have all gone.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As Mr. Velu Pillai suggested, a Division Assistant might be appointed, if necessary, a European.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there are one or two points which were urged in favour of the retention of the Devicolam Division. The place is said to be inaccessible. The Commissioner of Devicolam, in excercising the Dewan Peishkar's duties, is obliged to go all the way from Devicolam to Kottayam and then from Kottayam to Peermade. That being the case, I cannot understand why the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam should occasionally find it difficult to go to Devicolam and carry on the work of the Commissioner there. The western outlet road which has now been opened is fit for motor cars; and therefore even though it was difficult in olden days, it is not so now. Except during monsoon, a motor car can very easily go on these roads. It is not at all difficult now for the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, to go to Devicolam.

Another point which I should like to know is what are the duties which a Division Assistant would not be able to carry out and which necessitate the presence of a Dewan Peishkar or Commissioner there.

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[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

I should also like to know, taking the statistics for the last few years, how many cases have arisen which would have necessitated the presence of a Dewan Peishkar or Commissioner there, and which could not have been adequately met by a Division Assistant. I should think that a European Division Assistant under the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam would be sufficient for all practical purposes. The revenue is very small and the collection of most of the revenue there will not require very costly or complicated machinery. Now that we are out for retrenchment it would be quite sufficient, judging from the materials placed before us, if the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam is asked to exercise the powers of the Commissioner for Devicolam and one European Division Assistant be placed there, assisted by two Tahsildars in Devicolam and Peermade.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The ground of opposition for the abolition of Devicolam Division is the difficulty arising therefrom in the practical administration as has been referred to by Mr. Robinson. I may point out to the House that till recently there was a separate forest division for the High Ranges and it has been found possible to abolish that division and amalgamate it with the Kottayam Division. I believe the Divisional Forest Officer at Kottayam does not find it difficult to administer the forests so far as the High Range is concerned. It will be admitted that the work of the conservation of forests is a more responsible and a more arduous one; and in that light I fail to see why this division should not be abolished.

Mr. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry cum Minachil*): Sir, I wish to say a few words in this connection. The question before the House is about the reduction of Rs. 6,000 from the allotment for establishment charges. But the speeches which have been delivered in this connection had more reference to the abolition of the Devicolam Commissionership; and it has been ruled from the Chair that that matter by itself is not relevant. But it may be submitted that, since that appointment is not a votable one, within the limited powers given to the Council, we can only attack the lower portion, *i. e.*, the establishment. And our object in doing so is to bring home to the Government the fact that, though it is not actually votable, we are of opinion that such appointments are not necessary. If that be the view,—and I think that seems to be the right view,—I fully agree with my friends who have already addressed the House on the subject that the appointment of a highly paid Commissioner is not justifiable in the present circumstances of our financial strain. As has been suggested, it may well be tried with a European Assistant Commissioner. But the question really before the House is with regard to the establishment itself. Of course, if we reduce the establishment to an unworkable extent I think we will be only doing injustice to ourselves. Then the further question is whether the reduction could be made to the extent of Rs. 6,000. I must confess my ignorance in regard to the unapproachability of the various places in

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that division which has been so pointedly brought to our notice by Mr. Robinson. I had the honour to represent the Devicolam Division for two years in the last Council. I must admit that I had not the opportunity to visit the place because it was so inaccessible; and no doubt it does not give me any credit for that. Still I must confess that travelling to Devicolam is rather difficult, though I have no experience of the difficulties of the officers stationed there. Under the circumstances, to what extent reduction is possible is a matter of detail which I am not in a position to say. I would rather leave it to the good sense of the Government to see whether some reduction could not reasonably be made. In this spirit I approach the subject.

PRESIDENT: I think there is a doubt which it would be well to clear. As I have already said, the appointment of the Commissioner at Devicolam is non-votable. But his establishment will be largely votable and the establishment has been classed as votable here. But the point of differentiation to which Mr. Nidiry has referred is, I think, very important, because that point will be referred to again and again in the course of our budget discussion, and I think the view to be taken is that, when a motion comes before the House for the abolition of an establishment which involves the abolition of a non-votable appointment as a necessary consequence, that strictly is not votable by the House. If the object of a motion to reduce the provision for the establishment and contingencies which are provided for an officer who holds a non-votable appointment is to abolish that appointment, I think it should not be pressed to a division. Unless I give that as a ruling to be followed I think we will be landed in an *impasse*, and the vote of the House will also not result in anything practical. Of course, the House has got a right to express its opinion as to the necessity for the retention of a non-votable appointment. A more proper way of bringing up that motion before the House is by means of a resolution. But at this session, we have no time for resolutions. In a budget motion, although reference could be made to the opinion of members that a particular non-votable appointment is unnecessary, I do not think that the House will be in order in disallowing entirely the establishment etc., which are absolutely necessary for the work of the officer who holds the non-votable appointment. That is how I view the rules. There is no express rule on the subject. There are some rulings in similar Legislative Councils elsewhere. I think this is the only workable interpretation to give to those rulings.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I think it necessary to speak a few words on this motion especially in view of the ruling that has now been given by the President. Sir, the motion before the House contemplates the reduction of Rs. 6,000 out of a total allotment for the establishment of which this Rs. 6,000 may not be and is not in excess of the pay of the Devicolam Commissioner, so that, in case this House were to carry this motion for the reduction of Rs. 6,000, the Government, especially in the light of the discussion that has been carried on in this House, might then take it that it is not a

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[President.]

motion for reduction of the establishment of clerks, etc., but essentially one in regard to the appointment itself. I must point out that the regulation and the rules have been already interpreted and the precedent has been set even in this very House by the President at the last budget session, whereby similar motions for reduction in the establishment moved and carried in this House in the light of the discussion regarding a non-votable item have been decidedly ruled to relate to that non-votable item and accordingly those appointments, although they were strictly nonvotable, have been dispensed with. I would only refer as an instance to the managership in the Excise Commissioner's office which was a non-votable item because it carried a salary of more than Rs. 125 per mensem. A reduction to the extent of his salary in the establishment has been taken to mean that the managership should be abolished and it was abolished.

PRESIDENT: I think that was a motion accepted by Government. That makes all the difference. I am aware of an analogous ruling in the Madras Council. It must be left entirely to the Government to accept or not to accept the reduction of a non-votable appointment contemplated.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, my point is that, in the light of the discussion on which voting proceeds, such motions will not affect the real establishment, but will only affect the very appointment which formed the subject-matter of the discussion. I humbly submit that that is one of the privileges that have been recognised in the Madras Legislative Council and the principle was referred to in this House during the last budget discussion and recognised by the President himself. I would also refer to the discussions on the Police Department relating to Assistant Superintendents. The discussion on those posts was carried on and votes were also taken on the understanding that a motion for reduction in regard to their establishment related to the appointment of Assistant Superintendents of Police. And so my prayer is that if this motion happens to be carried —and I hope it will be carried—the Government will realise for what purpose we are moving it and for what purpose it has been voted upon by this House.

PRESIDENT: I have explained the matter. It is a very difficult point and it is a matter of very great importance. I am aware of the fact that, in the Madras Legislative Council, such motions are allowed and perhaps voted upon. Here also it is true that we discussed such motions, but I think last year some of these motions were in fact definitely accepted, while there was no discussion on those not accepted by Government. It must be essentially left to the Government to decide, after being influenced by the discussion, whether to accept such motion which involves the abolition of a non-votable appointment or not. But if the motion is to be pressed to a division and if the House votes and carries the motion it can only mean that the Government will take into consideration either the abolition or reduction as the case may be and give effect to it if it thinks fit.

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MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes, Sir. To ascertain the wishes of the House it may be necessary to come to a division. Government should be made aware of the opinion of the House in the matter under discussion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With reference to the suggestion of Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, I may say that, if the cutting down of the establishment is voted upon, the result will be that the establishment will have to be disbanded and the officer will be there and continue to draw his pay without doing any work. In such cases, I think the proper procedure as elsewhere seems to be that, if a nominal reduction is proposed and even carried by the House, Government will be bound to give effect to that opinion of the House by considering the question whether the abolition of the post of the officer is itself necessary or not. But instead of doing that, that is by voting a nominal reduction and expressing its opinion, what is now being done is that the whole of the establishment of a particular office should be entirely reduced. The House can best record its views on the desirability or otherwise of a non-votable appointment by proposing a nominal reduction.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): A nominal reduction is generally brought forward when a question of policy or principle is involved.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): This too is really a question of policy.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരു ഡിവിഷന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം അതിലെ ജനസംഖ്യകൊണ്ടോ നികുതിയുടെ തുക കൊണ്ടോ തീരുമാനിക്കേണ്ടതല്ലെന്ന് ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായി.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I never said that the importance of a division should be judged by its revenue. I only referred to area and population.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ വ്യക്തമാക്കാം. എന്തുകൊണ്ടും ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷണെക്കാൾ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള തെക്കൻ ഡിവിഷൻ നിർത്തിയതു വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ദേവികുളംഡിവിഷൻ നിറുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വരിയ ദോഷം ഒന്നും നേരിടാനില്ല.

MR S C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The proposition is the abolition of the Devicolam Division as a Division and various reasons have been put forward by the members. But none of these reasons are acceptable as I will presently show. One of the members argued that because the Forest Officer is down on the plains, the Commissioner too can be on the plains. The Forest Officer can work the forests by being in the plains. That argument would not have been put forward if the member had been up at Devicolam and

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

seen the place. The forests are at the foot of the hills and accessible from the plains. The populated and cultivated parts are on the top of the hills and down the slopes adjoining British India.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is the member aware that the District Superintendent of Police, Quilon Division, controls the Police in the Devicolam Division.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): We are now talking about Revenue Divisions. We are not now concerned with the Police or the Forest Department. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai is aware that the chief means of getting to Devicolam is through British India. Possibly in dry weather you may use the western outlet road. But it is not possible in wet weather. Nearly all the produce goes through British India. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has had occasion to go to Devicolam and then he came only through British India. The distance between Peermade and Devicolam is not shorter than the other way. Officers make use of the other way because there are good roads in the other route. That is not the only reason for keeping Deviculam a separate divison. Another reason is that you must have a responsible officer on the spot both as regards crime and as regards income tax work; and the general work relating to the collection of income tax is very much bigger than in all the other Divisions put together. An officer has to be there to understand what items are to be taken into account in assessing income tax and what items should not be taken into account. There are other reasons also. Last year, for instance, during the monsoon, Devicolam and Peermade were practically cut off from food-supply. With great difficulty the supply was obtained from British India and it would have been perfectly impossible to get it from the Travancore side.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do the general rules regarding transfer of officers from one place to another apply to the Devicolam Commissioner? Can he be transferred as a Peishkar of Trivandrum?

PRESIDENT: I do not think it arises from this.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Shall I explain? According to the rules, officers may be transferred from one place to another. My question is whether the Devicolam Commissioner can be appointed Dewan Peishkar of Trivandrum?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter for the Government. You may go on, Mr. Robinson.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not see how it is relevant.

PRESIDENT: I have ruled the question as cut of order.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to have a statement from Mr. Robinson.

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Will Government see their way to appoint an Indian gentleman as Commissioner at Devicolam ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I think that question has to be ruled out.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : It is for the President to rule it out or not, and not for the member.

PRESIDENT : I am afraid I must rule it out of order. Mr. Velu Pillai, I daresay you understand the peculiar constitution and the peculiar circumstances here. When a motion is dealt with, the head of the department stands up a member of this House to reply to it. He does not represent Government except to that extent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : In that case there is not much good in the members on the official side if they cannot make any statement regarding policy. But in regard to my resolution for the establishment of a University, Mr. Hodgson was able to give us an assurance about the appointment of a committee.

PRESIDENT : He must have had the authority of Government. Unless the question falls within the four walls of the point in issue, you cannot get an answer.

MR. S. C. H ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Mr. Velu Pillai referred to the backward condition of the place. We have got all sorts of tribes and castes and a responsible officer is necessary on the spot. There is, besides, the income tax work.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : He refers to crimes. Is he in possession of statistics ? Can he give us the number of original cases ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not got the figures here.

PRESIDENT : May I ask Mr. Kumara Pillai what this Rs. 6,000 consists of ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ലോക്കൽ അലവൻസ്ക്കുടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടാണ്.

PRESIDENT : Do you press your motion to the vote.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost; 21 voting *for* and 23 *against*.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : I demand a poll.

A poll was accordingly taken with the following result :—

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[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

AYES—21.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	11. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
2. „ Paul V. Daniel.	12. „ K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
3. „ A. Govinda Menon.	13. „ P. K. Narayana Pillai.
4. „ A. Hoogewerf.	14. „ M. N. Pillai.
5. „ C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	15. „ N. Padmanabha Pillai.
6. „ S. Krishna Aiyar.	16. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
7. „ N. Kumaran.	17. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
8. „ T. Kumara Pillai.	18. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
9. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman.	19. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai
10. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	20. „ K. P. Raman Pillai.
	21. „ T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES—23.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.	12. Mr. John Mackie.
2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.	13. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
3. Mr. K. George.	14. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
4. „ L. C. Hodgson.	15. „ P Paramesvaran.
5. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.	16. „ W. H. Pitt.
6. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.	17. „ C. Ramankunju.
7. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.	18. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
8. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.	19. Rao Bahadur K. V Rangaswami Aiyangar.
9. Rev. Fr Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.	20. Mr S. C. H. Robinson.
10. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.	21. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
11. Mr. T. Lakshmanan Pillai.	22. „ S. Subramanya Karayalar.
	23. „ A J. Van Ross.

Motion 2.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,693 for establishment under Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,800.

Now that the majority in the House has accepted that the Devicolam Commissionership should be retained, I am making this motion for reduction to draw the attention of this House to the superfluity of the post of the Division Assistant at Peermade on Rs. 400. I need not go over the ground that has already been traversed in this House when the previous motion was discussed. Mr. Dominic Tomman, a man on the spot, has declared that the post of the Division Assistant is certainly superfluous especially in view of the fact that out of the eleven *pakuthies* which formerly comprised the Peermade taluk, four have been added on to the Changanacherry taluk, and the jurisdiction over the Poonjar *pakuthi*

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has been transferred to the Minachil taluk. The remaining *pakuthies* do not stand in need of such a costly officer as a Division Assistant. It would do very well if a Tahsildar with First Class Magistrate's powers is posted to the place. In view of the arguments that have been advanced already by the previous speakers in connection with the last motion I think both these officers need not be entertained at the same time for the Devicolam Division. I would therefore move for the reduction of Rs. 4,800, from the allotment under the Division Cutcherries.

PRESIDENT: The salary of the Division Assistant is a non-votable item. You cannot move for the reduction of it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not want the salary of the Division Assistant to be voted upon. My motion is to reduce Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges.

PRESIDENT: I do not think the motion is admissible. The Government had no opportunity to know what this figure Rs. 4,800 represented. Nothing was gatherable from the motion. Rs. 4,800 is much more than the pay of the staff of the Peermade Division Assistant. That is what I am pointing out.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I may be permitted to make an amendment in the motion and propose a reduction of Rs. 100 only. Then I think the difficulty pointed out will not arise. Otherwise I wish to adhere to the motion that Rs. 4,800 may be reduced out of the establishment charges. I request to be allowed to speak upon that point.

PRESIDENT: I cannot allow your amendment at this juncture. Your original motion is not definite. You say it relates to establishment. Not only the establishment of the Division Assistant of Peermade but also other establishments will be affected by the reduction proposed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the charges for the establishment under Division Cutcherries. The establishment charges for the Division Assistant and the Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam are clubbed together under "Division Cutcherries".

PRESIDENT: You must be in a position to give particulars regarding the amount you seek to reduce.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): There is a motion tabled by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai for a reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment for the Division Cutcherries. And in connection with that motion, the question of policy may be discussed and I think my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai will withdraw his present motion now.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, do you withdraw your motion?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not press my motion at this stage.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

Motion 3.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for fuel reserve in Devicolam by Rs. 200.

At the time I sent up my motion, I was at a loss to know why there should be a fuel reserve maintained by the Revenue Department. Subsequently I have been told that, on account of the scarcity of fuel in Devicolam, it was thought by Mr. Robinson that such a reserve ought to be opened ; and some non-official friends of mine who have knowledge of the locality have assured me that it is a necessary institution. I believe it is some time since it has been opened and it may be now handed over to the Forest Department for conservation. If that is found possible, I think a small reduction of Rs. 500 may also be found practicable.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The cost asked for is for weeding and keeping up the fuel reserve. In fact we are now working it cheaper than it would be worked under the Forest Department, because the Devicolam Commissioner is *ex-officio* Forest Officer and the Forest Ranger is the Sheristadar, and passes are issued on the spot. So that it is found cheaper. The forest range officer nearest to Devicolam is at Poopara which is 20 miles away, right away in the Cardamom Hills which would take one a full day to get to. I may say that, in the High Ranges, the cost of weeding per acre a year is Rs. 15 and a sum of Rs. 2,000 is really necessary for the purpose. If one knows the state of things in the High Ranges, he will see that the fuel reserve is absolutely necessary for officers stationed there. It is also an experimental station for planting trees of various kinds, some of which, like the *melanoxylon*, an Australian tree, is useful for making railway carriages. We have also planted several varieties of other trees, foreign to Travancore. These are, however, only side-issues. If we want to weed and maintain the reserve, all the money budgeted is necessary. If we do not systematically weed out the grass which grows to great heights in those regions during the rains and dries up during the summer months, the reserve will catch fire and the whole reserve will be destroyed.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the acreage of this reserve ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The total area is 200 acres of which 40 acres is indigenous and which is for building purposes. The rest is planted with trees, the timber of which will be useful for fuel.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether this Rs. 500 is for the 40 acres or for the whole of the 200 acres ?

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MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): A sum of Rs. 2,000 was asked for and the Government cut it down to Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am sufficiently convinced of the necessity of the allotment and I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 4.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

4. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,597 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 2,250.

ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ രണ്ടുഉദ്ദേശമാണുള്ളത്. ഒന്നാമതു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചിലവു കൂടുതൽ ആയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ഫ 0 0-ന ഫ 0 വീതം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതു് നന്നായിരിക്കും എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. രണ്ടാമത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശം റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ഏതു് ആഫീസിൽ പോയി നോക്കിയാലും ഒടിഞ്ഞ കസേര മേശ മുതലായതേ കാണുകയുള്ളൂ, എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഒരു റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽ ചെന്നുനോക്കിയാൽ പേർ പറയാതെതന്നെ ഇന്ന ആഫീസാണെന്നു് പറയാം. ഈ പണം ശരിയായ നിലയിൽ ആഫീസാണെന്നു കാണിക്കുന്നതിനു ചിലവാക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആക്ഷേപം ഇല്ല. ഫ 0 0-ന ഫ 0 വീതം കുറക്കേണ്ടതാണെങ്കിലും ആഫീസ് നല്ല നിലയിൽവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിലേയ്ക്കു് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആക്ഷേപം ഇല്ല; എന്നുമാത്രമേ എനിക്കിതിൽ പറയാനുള്ളൂ. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയാനുള്ളതു് മിസ്റ്റർ റാബിൻസൺറെ മറുപടിക്കു ശേഷം പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I understand the object of Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is to point out the want of furniture in the Revenue Department.

PRESIDENT: The broken condition of the furniture also.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is all the more reason why we should be granted the full amount. Our contingencies include book-binding, repairs to furniture, lighting, oil and all sorts of things. We find it very difficult to meet the expenditure with this amount. In regard to this allotment I may say that I asked for a greater amount, but the Government cut it down. If the Council still further cuts it down, it will be difficult to meet all the expenses under the head. We now find it difficult to make both ends meet. We cannot be going on purchasing chairs year after year. We want money for other things. Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to the broken condition of the furniture in the revenue offices. That is not our fault. We use to purchase furniture

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

and we have not got money to keep up the furniture. We are doing the best we can with the allotment available.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the annual allotment for repairs, I want to know whether a stock-register is kept as regards the whole furniture every year.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): We keep the store register showing the furniture in stock. This is verified, and unserviceable articles are written off and sold in auction and the proceeds credited in the accounts.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 5.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

5. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,770 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

My object is to point out one or two matters of general principle and get a declaration of Government's policy regarding those matters. It has now turned out that the first thing I must emphasise is the abolition of the Commissionership of Devicolam. Government must have been aware by this time that one of these places, either the Commissioner's place or the Peermade Division Assistant's place is superfluous. The next point to which I would draw the attention of Government is the fact that the Dewan Peishkars now-a-days have very little work to do. Before 1057 I find they had been attending to all matters affecting the revenue of the State. In fact the Dewan Peishkars in Travancore were practically doing the duties of the Collector in British India. In 1057 two Division Assistants were appointed and in creating the new appointment, the Government said:

"The Peishkar is expected hereafter to exercise a real and effective instead of as hitherto normal supervision over the customs, salt, tobacco, abkari, and opium revenue".

And it was said in that Government order that the Division Assistants to be so appointed will be men of intelligence and responsibility. Since then, the number of these assistants has been considerably increased. Along with the steady increase in the number of the Division Assistants, the duties of the Dewan Peishkar also were steadily diminished—so much so that now he is practically only a head revenue inspector. The Excise Department has been created and customs, salt and tobacco are being attended to by the Excise Commissioner and a costly staff under him. So my submission is that the Peishkar should be restored to his old status especially as the Devaswoms have been separated from the Revenue Department. The Peishkar should be restored

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to his ancient position and made the chief officer of the department responsible for the collection of all kinds of revenue as the system in British India is and as the system was here, in days of yore.

I would also submit that care ought to be taken in the recruitment of both the Dewan Peishkar and his assistants. Regarding the assistants in particular, they are now-a-days recruited from the Tahsildars. The oldest among them in point of service are being appointed as Division Assistants, with the result that the object of the Government in creating this appointment is being frustrated. Even in the appointment of the Peishkar I should submit that the system of recruitment should be changed slightly. The object of giving a Division Assistant was to make the Peishkar really the guardian of the interest and welfare of the people committed to his care and watch over the administration and do everything necessary for the welfare of His Highness' subjects. He was asked to tour about much more than he used to do. Under the present system of recruitment, when an officer gets appointed as Peishkar he gets too enfeebled, so that his mind and body do not go together. (*Laughter.*) He may very much like to go to particular places at particular times. But his body refuses to obey his mind. So, I submit the system of recruitment should be so changed that an officer should become the head of the Division by the time he is below 40 years of age. It is only then that you might reasonably expect him to do real touring work and exercise effective supervision of the subordinates under him. Had that been done, I venture to think that much of the confusion in land records maintenance and other revenue matters would certainly not have arisen. Now that he is combining in himself the functions of the District Magistrate as well, I do not see why the system of direct recruitment should not be resorted to at least as an experiment.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I take this opportunity of emphasising the superfluity of having two officers in the Devicolam Division, *i. e.*, the Commissioner for Devicolam and the Division Assistant at Peermade. In case Government hold that the Devicolam Commissionership ought to be retained, it is essential that, in the interests of public finances, the appointment of the Peermade Division Assistant be dispensed with. With these observations, I support the motion for reduction of Rs. 100 under Division Cutcherries.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I also support the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, it is difficult to know at this stage exactly what point I have to meet. Mr. Raman Pillai talks about the work of the Division Peishkar and his assistants. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai discusses the necessity of the Commissioner for Devicolam and the Division Assistant at Peermade. However, I shall first of all deal with Mr. Raman Pillai's remarks. I think it is perfectly an accepted fact that, as the work increases, the necessity of having extra hands also increases. If you take a business firm, as an example, you will see that,

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[Mr. P K. Narayana Pillai.]

as the business increases and income increases, the establishment charges also increase. Year by year the work of Government increases, rendering it necessary to add on extra hands. Mr. Raman Pillai referred to the work of the Dewan Peishkar some years ago. But since then the work has increased. He refers to the separation of the Devaswom work but he does not refer to the additional work that has since been thrown upon the Peishkar. He has to attend to the income tax work which is new, and the work under the Land Acquisition Regulation; he has got *maramat* work to attend to besides his inspection work. It is most difficult to get through for one officer. There is the *jamabandi* work also.

Then about the Division Assistant at Peermade. Devicolam is far away from Peermade and it is necessary to have on the spot an officer of the status of a Division Assistant as he has got the duties of a Peishkar in some respects and also those of a justice of the peace. The Devicolam Commissioner would find it very difficult to come down to Peermade and do the work of inspection over the various *pakuthies* and offices. Then again, there is the income tax work to do in certain *pakuthies*. The Division Assistant has a lot to do. If we want to have the Assistant's income tax work done by the Tahsildar, you have to amend the Income Tax Regulation.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What then is the work of the Devicolam Commissioner?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The work of the Devicolam Commissioner is the same as that of the Division Peishkar. He is also a District Magistrate and he has got also the income-tax work. His work corresponds to that of a District Collector in British India. The income tax work alone at Peermade is very heavy. Having regard to the number of assessees and the other facts urged by me, one officer is absolutely necessary for Peermade.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am also supporting Mr. Raman Pillai's motion. The motion, especially as explained by the mover and also by Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, will have far-reaching consequences. Though the House is now decidedly of opinion that the Commissioner of Devicolam is really necessary, yet if we can successfully lop off his assistant, then that would have an indirect effect upon the Commissioner and he himself would abdicate. (*Laughter.*) For tradition in Travancore is very clear that a Dewan Peishkar cannot exist without a Division Assistant. (*Laughter.*) Thus if we can successfully get rid of his Assistant now, the Peishkar will see that much of his glory would be robbed. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar was questioning Mr. Robinson what really is the work of the Commissioner. Evidently my friend forgot the fact that it is the duty of the Commissioner to issue orders to the assistant and see that the administration is run by the

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Assistant. (*Laughter.*) That being the case, in the light of the explanation offered, the motion is a very acceptable one. With these words I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I wish to add a few words. I understand Mr. Raman Pillai to base his motion on two grounds; one, that the Devicolam Commissionership is unnecessary, and the other, as regards the place of the Dewan Peishkar. Though the first ground alone has been discussed and though votes have been taken, it does not militate in any way against the possibility of dividing the House once again on the principle as to whether a Commissioner at Devicolam is necessary or not.

PRESIDENT : I do not grant that. I do not think the House has got the right to discuss it again and vote on it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The vote was taken as regards the establishment of the Devicolam Commissionership. Now the vote will be recorded on the principle as to whether the Commissionership is necessary or not.

PRESIDENT : That is not what Mr. Raman Pillai said.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I would like Mr. Raman Pillai to explain his position.

PRESIDENT : I am doing it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : He thinks that either the Commissionership of Devicolam or the Division Assistantship at Peermade can be abolished. I support the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Those who are in favour of old landmarks being maintained intact) cannot persuade democratic assemblies. So I do not know what kind of people we now get. When I saw that the Peishkar's status has been greatly added to, in that respect I wish to accord my full support to the proposal made by my friend Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai. We all remember the days when the Peishkar was an important officer inferior only to the Dewan and that is the reason why he was called Dewan Peishkar. But, Sir, in course of time encroachment after encroachment has been made upon his status, upon his work and upon his powers. Then he was controlling a district in almost all the departments and doing faithful duties of administration, giving satisfaction to Dewans and our Rulers. We now find the Peishkar has come to occupy the position of a glorified *proverthicar*. (*Laughter.*) I am very sorry to make the observation. If in course of time the judicial function is also taken from him, the Peishkar would become a veritable *proverthicar*. (*Laughter.*) Sir, we have heard of Peishkars like Sankunni Menon and Sankarasubbier and other gentlemen also who after having been Peishkars are now fortunately alive, at least one of whom I see before me. At that time the Peishkar had a potentiality and had occasion and opportunity to do very much indeed for the good of the people in his division; but to-day where is the Peishkar in the presence of the Police Commissioner drawing Rs. 1,400 ; where is the Peishkar

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

drawing Rs. 500 in comparison to the Chief Engineer who draws twice the Peishkar's salary; where is the Peishkar drawing Rs. 500 in comparison with the Excise Commissioner, who is an officer with very much greater position in certain respects regarding patronage and such things. It is in the interests of the country that the Peishkar must be put in his original position. Sir, the Dewan of Travancore is at the head of the land revenue administration. It is after the Dewanee of Bengal, Behar and Orissa was obtained that the East India Company became masters of the Indian Empire. It is the land revenue that is considered the most important item of revenue because it is the surest; and when Dewans and Maha Rajas go on tour, it is the Tahsildar and the Peishkar and not the Chief Engineer or the Excise Commissioner or the Survey Superintendent or any other officer that has to be in charge, so that I fail to see why this division of labour, this unfortunate division of labour should be pushed on in the case of the Peishkars. In the British districts the Collector is a far greater man. As the representative of several departments in a district centre the Collector is really an officer of greater power. I need not say much about it. I may however say that unless the Peishkar's position is resuscitated and he is given real power to do good for the district, I think not only the revenue administration but also all departments of administration are likely to suffer. That does not mean that I have no complaint against the revenue administration. I do not say that they are up to the mark in everything. I find on page 10 of the Administration Report for 1097:

"The percentage of collection under current demand fell from 98·3 in 1096 to 96·2 in 1097 and this was due to the scarcity of money. There was some improvement in the collection of arrears, the percentage having risen from 38·7 in 1096 to 42·1 in 1097."

If there was real scarcity of money, the improvement in the collection of arrears is inexplicable. Such statements which we find in the Administration Reports go to show that the information furnished by different Peishkars is dissimilar in character. There is no consistency or homogeneity. The Peishkar's work has not been satisfactory and I may tell the Council that all these difficulties are due to the circumstance that a man becomes a Peishkar only when the time for his retirement is near.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything more, I support the principle that there should not be both the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner in the Devicolam Division.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The object of this motion is to point out that the expenditure on Division Cutcherries is too much, and my friend suggested that to curtail the expenditure the post of a Division Assistant at Devicolam my be abolished. Another suggestion was that the Dewan Peishkar may be

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given the powers which he possessed of yore. We know that from 1081 the expenditure on division cutcherry has steadily increased. In 1081 the expenditure was Rs. 94,764 and in 1097 Rs. 1,28,583 and we have provided for 1099 Rs. 1,27,070. Though the Division Peishkar was divested of much of his powers and certain other high-paid officers were created—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask Mr. Madhava Variar what powers the Peishkar has been divested of?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Devaswom.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner*): That is only one.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Maramat and Abkari. And when he was divested of certain powers, other officers on higher salaries were appointed and other departments also were created. I have to offer other suggestions. There are now about 8 Division Assistants and 4 Peishkars. What I wish to suggest is that we do not want the Peishkars, we want only the Division Assistant, and four First Class Magistrates or District Magistrates may be appointed to do magisterial work. Then the executive may be completely separated from the judiciary and the working of the Revenue Department will consequently be very efficient.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion, in so far as he speaks of the Devicolam Commissioner and the First Class Magistrate at Peermade. My humble opinion is that one or other must go, the Devicolam Commissioner by preference. But I do not quite see eye to eye with him in his suggestion with regard to the increasing of the powers of the Dewan Peishkar and adding on the Excise and salt and so on to his duties. This department has been separated from the Revenue Department proper. To bring about the amalgamation again would be a fatal mistake.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I did not suggest the amalgamation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is to say, tacking it on. I quite agree with Mr. Madhava Variar in his suggestion that the Dewan Peishkars must be done away with. (*Laughter.*) Considering the fact that a Commissioner has been appointed I think the Dewan Peishkar has become a superfluity. It is already rumoured that there is a tug of war between the Dewan Peishkar and the Division Assistant. It is a case of pull baker, pull devil. Both of them are officers of more or less equal status. So I would suggest that the Dewan Peishkars be done away with and Division Assistants replaced and Magisterial work taken away from the Dewan Peishkar.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask him whose assistants they will be if the Dewan Peishkar's post is done away with.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Assistants to the Commissioner to be appointed in the place of the Dewan Peishkar and the Magisterial powers to be exercised be given to different officers as suggested by Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries North*) : One feels a great deal of sympathy when one sees that like Mark Twain shedding tears over Adam's grave, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai sheds tears over the departed glories of the Dewan Peishkars.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I object to that expression. I never shed any tears. (*Laughter.*)

MR K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : I apologise. But I am afraid these glories of Dewan Peishkars are past recall. We have been moving, the times have been moving and the machinery of Government has been moving and it is not at all possible for anybody to recall those past days. Now that there is the establishment of a Revenue Commissioner, the tendency is for the Dewan Peishkars to be deprived further and further of their importance and become reduced to the status of Assistants to the Revenue Commissioner. There is not much point in crying over these things. But for one reason I am inclined to support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, *viz.*, that the Commissioner of Devicolam and an Assistant in Peermade together are absolutely unnecessary. And we cannot afford to keep up the costly luxuries when there is so much shortage of funds. Therefore for that one reason I support the motion.

THE REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Thodupuzha* cum *Kunnathad*) : I also beg to support the motion. As Mr. Hoogewerf remarked, in view of the fact that we have a Land Revenue Commissioner I think the Dewan Peishkars are a superfluity. So, it would be high time to do away with them and in their place appoint Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay who will be directly under him and without the magisterial functions. He will be able to have a closer check and stricter watch over the work of the maintenance of the land records done by Tahsildars, so that that portion of the work will have better results. So in view of the fact that we have a Land Revenue Commissioner I would support the suggestion of Mr. Hoogewerf to do away with the Peishkars and have Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : In regard to the question of recruitment of officers mentioned by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, I beg to say that the whole matter is engaging the serious and anxious consideration of the Government and a solution cannot be arrived at in a hurry. The subject is one bristling with difficulties. In regard to European Assistants, we want European Magistrates and they should be Justices of Peace. Hence the European Assistants will have to be maintained at Peermade, until the law is changed.

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MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What about the Commissioner?

MR R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He is at Devicolam.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How many cases have been filed before the Magistrate at Peermade during the past three years?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the statistics before me.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): None, I believe.

MR. K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is there any understanding in the agreement between the Travancore Government and the Government of India that a European Justice of the Peace will be maintained at Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Peermade is an important centre containing a large number of Europeans.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Will not one European Magistrate do for Devicolam and Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Devicolam is distant from Peermade. If direct communication is established, the question whether one would be enough might then be considered.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether it is a fact that many of the European accused object to submit to the Indian Magistrate's jurisdiction?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The House is really glad that the question of changing the system of recruitment is engaging the serious attention of Government. Of course, time there was when our Peishkars were brilliant young men who aspired to become Dewans and some Peishkars did really become Dewans. But things have so degenerated that now Peishkars never hope to become anything more than what they are (*Laughter*). Then, regarding the necessity of European Magistrates I should be glad to hear from Mr. Krishna Pillai whether the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code is also in contemplation in view of the fact that it has been thoroughly amended in British India. I think it is high time that the amendment is taken up so that we can do away with the Commissioner as well as a European Judge in the High Court. Mr. Robinson's reasons for keeping on this Commissionership have not been convincing at all. I do not want to anticipate the official reply when a formal motion is brought for the abolition

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

of the office of the Dewan Peishkar. Then a large array of duties devolving upon the Dewan Peishkar will be trotted out. At any rate, Mr. Robinson told us that the income tax work is shared by the Division Assistant as well and we have also to remember that the criminal work done by the Dewan Peishkars is now being done by the Division Assistant. The work under the Land Acquisition Regulation is also done by the Division Assistant. With these observations, I press the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is difficult to know what the proposition is. Some gentlemen are advocating that the Dewan Peishkar should be given more powers, others that the Division Assistants are unnecessary and some are advocating the abolition of the Dewan Peishkar. So I think really the point at issue is about the —

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to explain that my suggestion should take effect only in case the Dewan Peishkar is maintained. If that post is going to be abolished I am glad and would not give him any enhanced powers. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The proposition before the House is whether an Assistant at Peermade is necessary.

PRESIDENT: The discussion of the policy.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Division Assistant is necessary at Peermade. No new points have been urged in the course of discussion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know as to whether there is any objection to one of the European residents of that district being invested with the powers of a Justice of the Peace?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not the point for me to settle, that is the point for Government to discuss. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the other side-issues which have been brought forward regarding Dewan Peishkars. The Devaswom work was only taken from them because the Devaswoms were separated from the Revenue Department. Mr. Velu Pillai compares the work of the Dewan Peishkars in olden days with the Chief Engineer and other officers. I do not know why this has been done and it only proves that he should be given a higher pay. If so I hardly concur with that view. I can only say again that Devicolam and Peermade are very far off and it is necessary to have somebody at the spot and that is the Assistant to the Commissioner and it is not possible to give the Tahsildars the powers of Division Assistants.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes I press it. Because, the Commissioner does not say anything about the Devicolam Commissioner satisfactorily.

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PRESIDENT: He has already answered that. I think, with reference to the Division Assistant, he has explained to you briefly the necessity for it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I press the motion to a division.

PRESIDENT: Those who are for the motion will please raise their hands. 26 *for*, 18 *against*. The motion is carried.

Motion 6.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:

6. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for the improvement of markets by Rs. 1,000.

I have been told by some friends that the cut I propose is too small. Of course I shall be glad if they propose an increase in the cut. So far as I have been able to see, there is no money spent on markets and why there should be an allotment for this purpose I am not able to understand. So I beg to make the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I second the motion. I am one of those who told the mover that the motion is a very important one. I was in the Legislative Council when the Markets Bill was passed and I am one of those who stoutly opposed it. Government at that time assured me, I think Mr. Subba Aiyar said, that it was not a fiscal measure and that the Markets Regulation was in the interests of giving water to the poor people who assembled in the market. We find that the people who resort to the markets are not better treated than cattle. There is very little drinking water; sanitation is not cared for at all. I think this is a disgrace to their administration. I said so in the last session also. For in 1097, while Rs. 62,681 formed the income from markets, the expenditure was only Rs. 2,189. I think, Sir, that the matter is very important and requires looking into. It has been assured on behalf of the Government that the Markets Regulation was passed only with a view to improve the condition of the markets. That the Government should make such a wholesale profit spending absolutely nothing is certainly very hard.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I point out that the official member may speak and then start the general discussion?

PRESIDENT: Yes. If the members should so wish.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think that Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Raman Pillai are entirely in support of the view that we should have more money. Mr. Velu Pillai complains about sanitation and about drinking water facilities not being supplied in the markets. I quite agree with him. The Popular Assembly members have also been complaining that sufficient money is not granted. The Sanitary Commissioner has been making complaints about sanitation and drinking water.

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

Even to a casual observer it would appear that the expenditure under this item is on the increase. The Markets Regulation was passed in the year 1092 but the working of the Regulation came into force only in 1096. It is quite evident that the working of the Regulation is at present only in the initial state. The receipts in 1097 come to Rs. 65,723 and estimates for several markets have already been sanctioned by Government. I might mention the Monday Market for which an estimate of Rs. 6,150 has been prepared, Kesavapuram Rs. 928, etc, Provision has also been made for land acquisition for certain markets in Agastisvaram *viz.*, Rs. 2,520, aggregating in all to Rs. 12,400. Definite proposals have not been received from the Peishkars in respect of several others. The Market Rules provide for the sinking of wells, construction of latrines and putting up of compound walls. The rules apply also to private markets. Infringement of the rules has to be dealt with under the regulation and it is necessary that the public markets should be kept in a decent and sanitary condition if the private markets are to be improved.

I should add that this expenditure is not a recurring item. When all the markets are improved the outlay required thereafter will be only a nominal sum necessary for maintenance.

I quite agree with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai that more money is wanted and it will be spent when we can find funds. Therefore I oppose the motion to reduce the grant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In the light of these observations, I may be permitted to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 7.

The following motion was not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

7. To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for law charges.

Motion 8.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I beg to move the following motion:

8. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for law charges by Rs. 4,000.*

ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയംകൊണ്ടുവന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഈ സംഖ്യ എന്തിനായിട്ടാണ് എന്നറിയുന്നതിനാണ്.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I think Mr. Kumara Pillai only wants to know the items that come under law charges. These items include decree amounts and vakils' fees. As regards vakils' fees, last year we spent, I think, only Rs. 25. We gave the cases to vakils on the spot and this cost us less than if the Sirkar Vakils were to go there. The amount includes also expenditure on account of day-costs. The allotment of Rs. 15,000 provided for the current year was found inadequate. The expenditure on

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this is only nominal and is only met under special circumstances and is incurred with the sanction of the Government.

PRESIDENT: It is not nominal; it is Rs. 14,000.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Before we make the expenditure we write to the Government to obtain their formal sanction. The expenditure under vakil's fee is nominal.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): May I point out that the decreed amount should not be entered? Law charges should mean expenses in connection with law and not decreed amounts. When decreed they ought to be shown separately.

PRESIDENT: In the budget it is shown like that. Charges connected with law suits are not separately shown.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether he has got a list of the amounts decreed against Government showing what amount is necessary for the coming year?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the information ready. But Rs. 15,000 sanctioned in 1098 was not found to be sufficient. I have not got the full details however; but I can get them and give to Mr. Krishna Aiyar if he likes in the evening. It is only the inevitable charges we have to meet, because of the decrees of courts, that we have provided for now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I put in a word, Sir, by way of explanation? It is not always possible to know what exactly is the decreed amount that the Government will have to pay in the course of the year. Sometimes application is made for the payment of the amount and sometimes no application is made by the parties for execution of the decrees.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Why should the Government wait for the application being made?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Sirkar Vakil sends up the case to the Land Revenue Commissioner to pay the amount in the court only when an application is made. The old practice was that every time execution was ordered, the amount could be paid only after Government sanction. Now the Land Revenue Commissioner pays the amount to avoid delay. That is why the amount is provided for here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Would it cover the decree charges of other departments as well?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No.

PRESIDENT: Most suits are against the Land Revenue Department. Are you satisfied, Mr. Kumara Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to this question I have to say a word. In the last sittings of the Council I recollect to have interpellated Government calling attention

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[President.]

to the amounts including costs decreed against Government for the last 12 years in civil suits on the file of the Kottayam District Court; and with reference to that, the Government answered that the amounts decreed including cost in suits decided against Sirkar came to Rs. 26,000 by way of costs and damages to the parties. That works on an average to about Rs. 2,000 per year. The Kottayam District Court is only one of the six District Courts in the State and if we take this as a criterion as to the cost and damages, the amount the Government will have to pay may come to Rs. 12,000 a year. Now in some of this litigation, it may be clearly seen, if the Government look into the question, that much of the defence set up by the Government is feeble and untenable. The defence should in many cases never have been started at all.

For example, I would cite the case of a Division Peishkar dealing with a *proverthicar* absconding with survey instruments and chains. At once the Dewan Peishkar issues process for attaching the *proverthicar's tarwad* properties. The junior members put in claim petitions and moved the court. Any person who has a moderate knowledge of the *marumakkathayam* law would not take steps to realise the money by attaching the tarwad property. Ultimately the suit was decreed against Government by the court. Such are instances in which Government and their advisors should think twice before they take any such steps. I even ventured to request the Government to ascertain whether the agents who are responsible for such losses should not be called upon to pay the cost decreed against Government. We have got such instances of unnecessary litigation indulged in by the Government. In view of such steps taken by the Government without proper legal advice and proper consideration bestowed upon the question, especially in view of the fact that the Government are first of all served with a notice under Section 409, Civil Procedure Code, as a matter of *locus penitentiae*, it is strange that public funds should be utilised for such purposes. In view of that fact, the question deserves to be gone into. In the Quilon Court I have been told by people there that in spite of the *tiruppuvaram* amount mentioned in the *patta*, Government do not consider the matter and obtain the advice of the legal advisors even when the cases are filed against the Government. Ultimately the Government finds that they have no defence whatsoever and the court decrees the amount against the Government with costs. In such cases the question arises whether the Government should not take into consideration the part played by those who are responsible for bringing about this unpleasant situation. In view of such facts I would support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion for the reduction of the amount.

PRESIDENT: I can give you the assurance on behalf of Government. My position is very peculiar here. Government is as much as possible for them, looking into these abuses and I believe—I have not got the figures in my mind—that the figures show that litigation against Government is going down. This abuse, however, cannot be rectified in one day or in one year. It may take some time.

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MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I say a word by way of explanation? Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's interpellation was referred to my office and the Sirkar Vakil has just submitted his explanation and made suggestions as to how the charges could be reduced. That was received only ten days ago and as soon as I am in a position to look into it I will do the needful.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I only want the matter to be considered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ സന്നിധിക്കു ഞാൻ എടൻറ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 9 to 12.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,600 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,600.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

10. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 69,622 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 6,960.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

11. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,50,999 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

12. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,446, for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 1,540.

Motion 13.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

13. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,95,800 for Proverthi Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

My object in sending up this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the unwieldy nature of the extent of the various *pakuthies*. In the G. O. reviewing the final report of the Settlement Peishkar on the Settlement of the State the following remarks were made:

"The *proverthi* was the unit of the revenue administration prior to the settlement. It embraced an average area of 27 square miles and was, therefore, considered to be far too large to serve as a unit. Accordingly, each *proverthi* was ordered to be sub-divided into *pakuthies* or villages, during the survey, but all the *proverthies* were not so sub-divided, nor were the instructions issued for the determination of the territorial or administrative units generally kept in view, except in a few taluks such as Tovala, Agastiswarom, Trivandrum, Chirayinkil etc. The *pakuthi* has now been definitely adopted as the unit. But it varies in extent from 0·81 to 203 sq. miles and has an average area of 11·9 sq. miles, which is at least twice as much as the average area originally proposed. .....His Highness' Government recognise that one of the first things which will have to be done, antecedent to the next general survey and settlement, will be a careful revision of the boundaries of several of the *pakuthies* and to some extent of that of the taluks also. Experience has shown that, in the majority of cases, the *pakuthi* is now a satisfactory unit. There are, however, several *pakuthies* whose size makes efficient

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

administration by single village agency absolutely impossible. The following are typical cases :—Anchal 203·54 sq. miles), Pathanapuram (141·58 sq. miles), Kanjirapalli (101·22 sq. miles).....The Government, therefore, feel that, well in advance of the next general survey and settlement, a careful revision of the boundaries of the *pakuthies* will be necessary.

We have been told that much of the confusion in the land records maintenance work is due to slackness in the taluk office. What I wish to place before the Council is that the slackness is really in the *pakuthies* and not in the taluks whether in the matter of *pokkuvaravu* or *porambokes*. In all these, steps have to be taken by the Proverthicar and his staff. Considering the extent of the *pakuthies* which varies from 203 sq. miles to ·81 sq. miles, I think it is the unwieldy extent of the *pakuthies* that makes it impossible for the *proverthicars* to cope with the work that is entrusted to them. The multifarious duties which the Tahsildar is said to be performing are practically done by the *proverthicar* and his staff. The learned Law Member told us last year that the Tahsildar may be asked to furnish statistics regarding snakes. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : That was what Mr. Krishnan Nair said.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I do not hear him.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Hoogewerf says he does not hear you. Will you please repeat the words, Mr. Raman Pillai ?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Snakes. (*Laughter.*) The *proverthicar* will have to go and count the snakes. (*Laughter.*) And besides that, the House will remember that half the time, that is six months in the year, will be taken up in kist collection and a good deal of time will be taken up for attending on officers. So that there is very little time to attend to his own work. Besides he has to maintain a number of registers—13 registers and 33 accounts. As such, I submit that it is no wonder that the land records maintenance work fell into such a chaotic condition; and it is no wonder also that the *proverthicars* did not attempt to clear off the arrears. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the absolute necessity of cutting up these *pakuthies*, increasing their number if possible by 200 per cent. so that it may be possible for the *proverthicar* and his staff to cope with the land revenue and other works.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, Mr. Raman Pillai states that the arrears in the Land Revenue Department can be traced down to the *pakuthi* staff. He points out that they have a lot of work to do, and he gives one instance of a particular work which was absolutely impossible for any single man to carry through. Well, it appears to me that these are all arguments for an increase of their pay and not for a reduction. The splitting up of the present *pakuthies* will have to be done some day. I do not see that any case has been made out for reducing the grant of Rs. 2,95,800 asked for under Proverthi Cutcherries.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, I take it, is not against increasing the grant, provided it is expended in a proper fashion. I asked a question at the last meeting of the Council about the condition of the *Proverthi* Cutcherries. The *proverthicars* are not doing their work properly; and as far as I can see, it is because they who have been occupying positions of influence and importance in the *pakuthi* have now been brought down, consistently of course with the degradation of the Dewan Peishkar's position. I have been trying to find out the position of similar officers in other departments—foresters, petty officers, head constables etc. Time was when the *proverthicar* was an officer of a higher status than any of these officers of today. The other officers' pay was increased and their status also was raised but the *proverthicar* has been given nothing. The result is that the heart of the *proverthicar* is not in his work. We have heard complaints about encroachment cases, about delay in the disposal of *puduval* cases and applications for agricultural loans. As my friend Mr. Raman Pillai put it, the *proverthicar* is now everybody's servant. When the Tahsildar goes on circuit or when the Dewan Peishkars or higher officers or State Guests go on circuit, unfortunately this universal servant is in the position of god Mercury. (*Laughter.*) Unless his pay is raised, the land revenue administration will not get on. For this reason, I support Mr. Raman Pillai's motion

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): പാവ്ത്യകാരന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു. പാവ്ത്യകാരന്മാർ ആണു് പകുതി കരം പിരിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും രണ്ടുമാസംകൊണ്ടു പണം പിരിച്ചു് അടയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ പാവ്ത്യകാരന്മാർ കൈയിൽ നിന്നു പണം കെട്ടി വയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. പണം കെട്ടിവച്ചു ഉടൻ അവരെ അവിടെ നിന്നും സ്ഥലം മാറ്റുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ സ്ഥലം മാറിയാൽ ആ പകുതികളിലുള്ള ജോലി ചെയ്യാൻ പ്രയാസമായിത്തീരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി പാവ്ത്യകാരന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നോക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. പാവ്ത്യകാരന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതാതു പകുതികളിൽ അതിനു ശേഷിയുള്ള ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കീട്ടുവേണം കൊടുക്കാൻ. സ്വദേശിയായ ഒരു പാവ്ത്യകാരനെ നിയമിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ പണപ്പിരിവിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നടന്നുവരുന്നതായി തോന്നുന്നു. സ്വദേശികളെത്തന്നെയാണു് പാവ്ത്യജോലിയിൽ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അവരുടെ ചുമതലകൾക്കും ജോലികൾക്കും അനുസരണമായി അവക്കു ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

PRESIDENT: May I tell you for your information that the *proverthicars* in British India—headmen as they are called—are not more

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

respectable than the *proverthicars* here? If at all, it is the other way.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ampalapuzha*): I rise to sympathise with the *proverthicar*. I have seen the *proverthicars* of the older variety and the *proverthicars* of the new variety. The *proverthicars* of the older variety were a sight to see. But the present day *proverthicar*, I am sorry to note, is growing more and more emaciated and as far as possible tries to fight shy of his work. This may be illustrated by a reference to the number of leave applications put in by *proverthicars* when the tours of great persons are expected throughout the State. The reasons for this, more or less, may be imagined rather than explained.

Another difficulty which has been pointedly brought to the notice of the Council by Mr. Kumara Pillai was that the *proverthicar* has to collect the *kist* amount and pay it within a specified date. It may be that in the village all the collections might not have been made but all the same the *proverthicar* will have to pay the amount as long as he wants to cling on to his office. In such a contingency he advances money or he borrows money from others and advances it.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he has got specific instances?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, I have. Here is Mr. Krishna Aiyar from whom money has been borrowed and paid into the treasury.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Out of consideration they pay from their own hands but they are paid afterwards; this is a sort of private arrangement.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So much so, if he is disliked, the Tahsildar, as soon as he finds that the *proverthicar* is in a position of risk, gets him transferred from the *pakuthy*. The *proverthicar* unfortunately cannot explain things; it is too late. Such things will take place and the constant shifting of the *proverthicar* is a piece of suffering borne in silence which tends to weaken his work and leads to his ruin. In view of that fact, to raise the status of the *proverthicar* he should be made to understand that, so long as he discharges his duty, he is not liable to be shifted so often like a shuttlecock. In this view I sympathise with the motion and support it.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പാവ്
ത്യകാരന്മാക്കു ശമ്പളം പോരെന്നും അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ദ
നീയമാണെ
ന്നും പറയുന്നതിൽ ആദ്യത്തെതിനോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ
അവരിൽ പലരും കൃഷിക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പലവിധത്തിൽ
പണം ധാരാളമായി കരസ്ഥമാക്കുന്നുണ്ട് എന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃ

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ത്തിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ദയനീയമെന്നു പറയാമോ? ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു പണം വാങ്ങുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ഏറ്റവരാണിവർ. പുറമ്പോക്കും, പുഴുവലും, പോക്കുവരവും ഒക്കെ ഇവരുടെ ആദായമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളാണ്. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രായേണ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപദ്രവം വരാതെ ഇവരെ നിയന്ത്രിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കയും പിന്നെയും ജനങ്ങളോടു പണം വാങ്ങുവാൻ ഇടയാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അത് അധിക കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഇവരോടിടപെടാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. സാധുകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഇവരിൽനിന്നു ധാരാളം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ചുരുക്കം ചിലർ നല്ലവർ കാണും. അധികവും കഴപ്പുംതന്നെ. പെൻഷൻ പറ്റി കഴിയുമ്പോഴേക്ക് ഇവർക്കെന്തുസ്വത്തുണ്ടെന്നു നോക്കിയാൽ മേൽപ്രസ്താവിച്ചതിന്റെ വാസ്തവം വെളിപ്പെടും. സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കഷ്ടതയെ വിചാരിച്ചാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു. പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, I have also been familiar with the old order of *Proverthicars* who were exercising magisterial and various other kinds of jurisdiction and occasionally even inflicting stripes on defaulters. It is undeniable that the work of the *pakuthi* staff is unsatisfactory and that the large volume of arrears in *pokkuvaravu* cases is due to the unsatisfactory nature of the *pakuthi* staff. There are nearly 40,000 to 50,000 *pokkuvaravu* cases, and that has given rise to a lot of confusion in the administration of the department. The chief reason for this is the unwieldly nature of the *pakuthies*. I understand that the *pakuthies* in Cochin and Malabar have been reorganised so that on an average they are only 4 or 5 square miles in area and have a population of between 4 and 5 thousand and the amount of revenue for collection also somewhere there. The *pakuthies* in Travancore have not been formed on any reasonable basis. The settlement classifier who happened to squat in a particular locality pitched upon some place and that has been the genesis of the present *pakuthies*. There is no rhyme or reason in the extent or formation of the modern *pakuthies*. It is high time that Government took up the question of the reorganisation of the *pakuthies* even if it involves a very considerable increase in expenditure. I am sure that no member of this House, who has got experience of the troubles arising out of the unwieldy nature of the *pakuthies* will grudge this at all. The most crying reform that is now necessary is a fresh re-arrangement of the area, population and revenue of each *pakuthi* so that the *pakuthies* may be made manageable.

Recently a number of *pakuthi* accountants have been deputed to do work with the Assistant Tahsildars; and the Tahsildars have reported to the Peishkars who in return have reported to Government that they should be sent back to the *pakuthies* and that

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

unless it is done the work in the *pakuthies* and taluks will break down. In spite of that, I do not know whether Government found it possible to comply with this request of the Peishkars who think the reversion of these accountants to their respective *pakuthies* indispensable. Most of the *proverthicars* are now going about begging the people to pay *kist* in proper time. I have been making enquiries of them when I find that they try thus to collect revenue. If they do not move out but issue demand notices in hundreds and thousands they find that work more arduous than going about for *kist* collection. They say the *kist* could not be collected if they merely remain at home. They have followed the lesser of the two evils and chosen to go about themselves and try somehow to induce people to pay *kist* by hook or by crook. I am told that the Dewan Peishkar of Quilon has recently issued instructions that the *pakuthi* staff are not to go about to collect *kist* but should remain at their office and only issue demand notices to the defaulters. If this rule is strictly enforced, there will be an inevitable fall in the collection of revenue for one or two years. It may result in considerable arrears of revenue; but this will be so only for a year or two. There must be a system that must be strictly carried out without any departure from the rule. The *pakuthi* staff and work require thorough overhauling; and I hope that Government will seriously take it up and put it on a satisfactory basis. For these reasons, I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I have not forgotten my experiences of the *proverthicar* which I had about two years ago. Last time, when I was speaking about the Assistant Tahsildar, I said that he was a gentleman. I am afraid I cannot say the same about the *Proverthicar*. As I said, I feel very bitter even now. The whole fabric of the Revenue Department, as stated by Messrs. Raman Pillai and K. C. Mamman Mapillai, rests on the *Proverthicars*. If an application for grant of land or water is made to the Dewan Peishkar, it is sent to the Tahsildar who sends it on to the *Proverthicar* and it is in the hands of the *Proverthicar* that the thing has to be made or unmade. He can do or undo many things. I am speaking from experience. He must be propitiated. He must be made a big man and so on and so forth, as otherwise the whole report will be that the land or water cannot be granted. The *Proverthicar* is a very powerful factor in the locality. I, therefore, quite agree that something must be done either to make the *pakuthies* smaller or increase the pay of the *Proverthicars* so that the land revenue administration which has fallen into a chaotic state, as has been represented, may be properly attended to. The *proverthicar* is the groundwork of the land revenue administration. Once the foundation is made all right, the rest will naturally follow. Hence I support this motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is true that some of the *pakuthies* are very extensive and that some

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are rather too large to be managed by a single village agency The question of splitting up *pakuthies* cannot be taken up now, for it involves resurvey, preparation of maps and rewriting of settlement registers. It cannot be done by a mere executive order.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I wish to know from the Chief Secretary whether it could not be done by a rearrangement of *muries*.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : We do not go by *muries*; we go by *khandams*.

PRESIDENT : The preparation of fresh maps is also necessary.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A regular survey of *khandams* is necessary before a *pakuthi* can be split up.

Proverthicars were formerly getting Rs. 15, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25. Now they get Rs. 18 and Rs. 24.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I wish to know from the Chief Secretary the pay of the Petty Officers in the Excise department.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : It goes up to Rs. 28.

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Of a Police Head Constable ?

PRESIDENT : In any case it is not more than Rs 25.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : A *proverthicar* can now rise up to Rs. 25. That cannot be considered a very low pay in a country like Travancore.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know the number of *proverthicars* getting Rs. 25 each ?

PRESIDENT : Their number is in the budget, and also the total number of *proverthicars*.

MR. GEORGE (*Financil Secretary to Government*) : There are 60 on Rs. 24 each.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : 349 on Rs. 18. As regards the arrears which have accumulated, I may say that they came into existence from the date of completion of the settlement. The question of land records maintenance was not seriously or systematically taken up immediately after the settlement. That is the reason why arrears accumulated and special arrangements were rendered necessary. It was not because *proverthicars* and accountants were not doing their current work properly. These arrears have accumulated owing to the length of the interval between the survey and the settlement.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Chief Secretary say why there has been reduction in the percentage of collection of land revenue during the last two years ?

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reasons are given in the Administration Report.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary tell us whether, in his experience as Tahsildar and as Peishkar, it has not come to his knowledge that *proverthicars* advance money either from their own pockets or by borrowing for paying the *kist* amount to the treasury?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not come across any such instances. On the other hand, I have strictly prohibited them from doing any such thing.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has the Chief Secretary any information to the effect that *proverthicars* are in the habit of doing so?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not deny having heard like that; but I have no personal knowledge about the matter. Perhaps some *proverthicars* do that to make up the amount of *kist* at the end of the year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I may tell the Chief Secretary that I have come across numerous instances in which *proverthicars* have done so and I am prepared to tell the Land Revenue Commissioner of those instances.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Probably they must be idle *proverthicars*. They deserve to be punished. If a *pattadar* refuses to pay *kist*, the *proverthicars* need not go to him at all for its collection. The law allows them to proceed against defaulters. The *proverthicars* can remain at their offices and realise the *kist* by issuing demand notices.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): But Government do not allow them to remain in their own places.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They can realise the *kist* by following the procedure and taking the steps prescribed by the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, the first point raised is the splitting up of the *pakuthies*. There is the necessity for the splitting up of the *pakuthies* and in some cases of combining them. The necessity for revising the boundaries of *pakuthies* was suggested by the Settlement Dewan Peishkar in his final report on the settlement operations and the same admitted in the Government review on that report from which Mr. Raman Pillai quoted. Subsequently, the same question was considered in a Revenue and Settlement Conference of 1920, held by the Dewan in which the question was discussed in all its details. At that conference also, the need for splitting up *pakuthies* and clubbing the smaller ones was recognised, but the thing cannot be attempted at once for the reasons explained. The minimum area of a *pakuthi* here is little less than

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one square mile and the maximum about 200 square miles so that there is no question of the necessity that exists for both the processes *viz.*, the amalgamation and the bifurcation of *pakuthies.*

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If it is difficult to split the *pakuthies*, may I know whether it is possible to increase the number of *proverthicars* in the more unwieldy *pakuthies*?

MR. T. P. RAMSUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It may be possible, but it would not work properly. There should be one official who should be held personally responsible for the whole work of a *pakuthi.* But as I said, the ideal of having *pakuthies* of small dimensions cannot be immediately attained for the reasons mentioned. We have a settlement register for each *pakuthi* and if a *pakuthi* is going to be split up, we will have to prepare for each of the divided *pakuthies* separate maps; the settlement and other registers prescribed by the Land Revenue Manual for each *pakuthi* will have to be re-written and completed. For these reasons, it would not be immediately practicable. Government have considered this question and have come to the conclusion that this work can be taken up only at the next Settlement. As I said, simultaneously with the bifurcation of unwieldy *pakuthies*, the combination of *pakuthies* will also have to be done. There are only very few of them which can be clubbed together.

As regards the pay of the *proverthicars*, prior to the re-organisation, there were 5 on Rs. 25; 49 on Rs. 20; and 353 on Rs. 15 each; but at present there are 60 *proverthicars* on Rs. 24 and 349 on Rs. 18. Their pay has been improved and they are now being paid liberally. The five men who were getting Rs. 25 are now given personal allowance of of Re. 1 in addition to their pay. As regards further revision and betterment of their pay, that should come by and by.

In regard to the transfer of *proverthicars*, I may say that this also was considered at the above-mentioned conference and Government have issued Circular orders to the Peishkars to see that they are not transferred except for cogent reasons. It was also suggested that the accountants and peons diverted for land records maintenance work should be sent back.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have been misunderstood in regard to the pay of the *proverthicars.* Sir, it was not part of my resolution that the pay of the *proverthicars* should be increased. My contention was that the *pakuthies* should be cut up and re-formed. The appointment of additional staff in existing *pakuthies* would not help matters. The only solution I suggested was the increasing of the number of *pakuthies* by cutting up the existing *pakuthies.* I am not quite convinced that it is not possible to increase the *pakuthies* by regrouping the *khandams.* Enadimangalam *pakuthi* consists of 100 *khandams.* My suggestion is whether every five *khandams* could not be made into a separate *pakuthi.* The new *pakuthies* may be called Enadimangalam South and Enadimangalam North and so on.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The survey numbers will not be continuous.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether Mr. Raman Pillai is in favour of giving any increase of pay to the *proverthicars*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No. I will not pay them a copper cash more.

I do not press the motion to a division.

PRESIDENT: I have some experience in British India and here; but I do not think it is necessary that I should say anything about this in view of the fact that Mr. Raman Pillai is withdrawing the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Council rose for lunch at 2-20 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

Motions 14 to 16.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the following three motions are identical :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

14. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars.) Rs. 33,869.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :—

15. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars). Rs. 33,869.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :—

16. To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,289 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, will you please make your motion ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : I beg to make the following motion:

14. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for Land Records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars) Rs. 33,869.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്ന കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്താൽ കായ്നടപ്പിനു തടസ്ഥമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നോ അതിനാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കണമെന്നോ എനിക്കുദ്ദേശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഭൂമിസംരക്ഷണജോലിയുടെ കടിശികകൾ കഴിയുംവേഗത്തിൽ തീർക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ എം. ജോലി കൊണ്ടു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫലം കിട്ടുന്നതല്ലെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ചിലവു ദുർവ്യയമായി തീരു

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മെന്നും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു പറയാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഉൽകൃഷ്ടപരീക്ഷാവിജയികളായ അനേകം ചെറുപ്പക്കാർ അതിലിപ്പോൾ ജോലിചെയ്യുവരുന്നു. അവർക്കു ദോഷമായി പറയേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു മനസ്താപമുണ്ട്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളുടെ കുടിശികകൾ തീർക്കുന്നതിനായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞ ൪ വർഷങ്ങളായി പല ശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുവരികയാണ്. ഈ ജോലിക്കായി ൫൦ വ്യക്തൽ താലൂക്കു സർവ്വെയറന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചു. അവരുടെ ജോലികൾ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടപ്പോൾ അവരെ സഹായിക്കാനായി തൽകാലം അക്കൗണ്ടന്മാരെക്കൂടി നിയമിച്ചു. അതിലേക്കായി അനേകായിരം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയതിലും പ്രയോജനകരമായ ഫലം കിട്ടാതെ വന്നു. അതിൽപിന്നീടാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ നിയമനമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇവരെക്കൊണ്ടു എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളെ തൃപ്തികരമായി നടത്തിക്കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് ഇന്നും ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ബലമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നതു്.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നമതിരിയിൽ രണ്ടു വർഷംകൊണ്ടു് എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ കുടിശികകൾ തീർന്നുപോകുമെന്നാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. പുതുവൽ കേസ്സുകളെപറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൫൦൪ അവസാനത്തിൽ ൫൦൨-ം ൫൦൩ൽ ൫൦൫-ൽ ൫൦൬-ം ൫൦൭ൽ ൫൦൫-ൽ ൫൦൬-ം കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശികയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണാം.

പുറം പോക്കുകേസ്സുകളെപറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൫൦൪ൽ ൫൦൪-ം, ൫൦൩-ൽ ൫൦൩-ം, ൫൦൭-ൽ ൫൦൬-ം കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശിക ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി കാണാം. പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകളെപറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൫൦൪-ൽ ൫൦൨, ൫൦൩-ം, ൫൦൩-ൽ ൫൦൨, ൫൦൪-ം കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശിക ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണാം. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ കുടിശികകൾ എത്രകൊല്ലങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു് ഇപ്പോൾ ആർക്കും നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ തരമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ കൊണ്ടു് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തു റീസർവ്വെ നടത്താതെ സാധിക്കാമെന്നാണു ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ആശിക്കുന്നതു. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻറെ ഈ സംക

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ല്ലും നല്ലതുതന്നെ എന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംകല്പം സാധിച്ചുകിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ ഇനിയും രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വർഷംകൂടിവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആരും ആക്ഷേപിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ലാ. ചുവടെ വിവരിക്കുന്നകാരണങ്ങളാൽ അതുസാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നുബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടതുകൊണ്ടാണ്.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു പ്രധാനമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളിൽ ഒന്നു പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഫ 0 വുന-മുതൽ ഫ 0 വുൻ-വരെ ൈ, ഫ വുന്യ-പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, ഫ 0 ൻന്യ-ലും ഫ 0 ൻ ൈ-ൽ ഫ 0 മാസങ്ങളിലും ഫ ഫ,നമ്പർ കേസ്സുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇത്രയും കേസ്സുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കണക്കാക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ പുറംപോക്കുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതും കേസ്സുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതും മറുമയനടപടികളെ പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാൻ അവസരങ്ങൾ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്. താലൂക്കുസർവ്വയറന്മാരുടെ കാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരും പകുതികളിലെ അക്കൌണ്ടന്മാരും കൂടിചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്ന ഈ ജോലി, അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ നിയമനത്തോടു കൂടി പകുതിഅക്കൌണ്ടന്മാരുടെ കുത്തകയായിതീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഈ പരമാർത്ഥം അധികൃതന്മാരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ തുറന്നസമ്മതിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാവുകയില്ലായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. അനേകകാലത്തെപഴക്കവും പരിചയവും ഉള്ള സർവ്വയറന്മാർ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾക്കു മതിയാകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തിന്മേൽ പകരം നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു സർവ്വെയുമായിമൂന്നുമാസത്തെ പരിചയമെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളൂ എന്നുള്ളതു് മറച്ചു വയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൻെറ ദോഷത്താൽ, റിക്കാർട്ടുകളിൽകാണാത്ത പുറംപോക്കുകൾക്കു പലേ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെ തീർത്തു ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനു മൂന്നുമാസത്തെ പരിശീലനമുള്ളവരെക്കൊണ്ടു് ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ അനേകവഴിതടങ്ങൾ, ഇടവഴികൾ, തോടുകൾ ഇവ പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാതെ വിട്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു. കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ പിന്നീടു പലതും പുറമ്പോക്കുകളായി തീ

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ന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ കൊണ്ട് ഇവയെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാൺമ്മാനില്ല. തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ മോതയാർ പ്രോജക്ടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ചാനലുകൾക്കായി പൊന്നുംവിലയും കൊടുത്ത് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമികൾക്കു ശരിയായ റിക്കാർഡുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ചാനലുകൾക്ക് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പല സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കും കരം കുറവെഴുതികിട്ടാതെ മുൻ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ കരംതീർത്തു നഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾകൊണ്ട് ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിച്ചുകിട്ടാൻ വഴിയുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു യോജിപ്പായി മറ്റൊരു സംഗതിക്കൂടി നടന്നുവരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിപ്രകാരം ഇപ്പോൾ ഭൂമികളിൽകാണുന്ന കിടപ്പനുസരിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ സർവെചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. പല കാരണങ്ങളാലും പേരിൽ പതിവു ഭൂമികൾ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ അറിഞ്ഞും അറിയാതെയും പുറമ്പോക്കു ഭൂമികളോടു ചേർന്നുകിടക്കുന്നതു സാധാരണമാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഭൂമികളെ ഇന്നുകാണുന്ന സ്ഥിതികളിൽ പുറംപോക്കായി സർവ്വചെയ്തു കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ അടുത്ത ഭൂമികളുടെ അളവ് ഒരിക്കലും യോജിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതാണ്. മേൽ വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം ജോലികൾ ആശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ക്ഷിപ്രകാലത്തിനകം തീർന്നുകിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ആ ജോലികൾകൊണ്ട് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്ക് അടുത്ത പ്രധാനജോലിയായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകൾ തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്. കണ്ടെഴുത്തുകാലത്തും അതിൽപിന്നീടും പോക്കുവരവും അതു സംബന്ധമായ സബ്ഡിവിഷൻ വേലകളും നടത്താതെ മിക്കവാറും ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതിന്റെ ഫലമായി പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകൾ ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ൧൯൨൯ അവസാനത്തിൽ അവ ൪൮,൫൩൦ കേസ്സുകളായി വർദ്ധിക്കയും ചെയ്തു.

പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകമായി പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളതു അവയിൽ നിന്നും ആദായമില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നു. പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുന്ന ജോലി എത്രയോ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളതും, അതില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ പല വ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾക്കും വഴിയു

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ണ്ടാകുന്നതുമാണ്. ഈ കാരണത്താലാണ് ഈ അധികാരത്തെ മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോൾ പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകൾ തീർക്കുന്നതിനു തഹശീൽദാർ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാർ, ഡിപ്പിറ്റി തഹശീൽദാർ, ഇവരെ ഭരമേല്പിച്ചതോടുകൂടി ൻെൽ ർന്നു, ഫ്രവുന്ന കേസ്സുകൾ തന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ പലരും അധികാരികളാ നിതീത്തിട്ടുള്ള പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകളും അതുസംബന്ധമായി നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള സബ്ഡിവിഷൺ വേലകളും അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിന് എത്രത്തോളം സഹായമായിത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

റെൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിസംബന്ധമായി ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന സർവ്വേ തന്നെ ഐകരുപ്യമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. പകുതിജീവനക്കാരുടെ അളവു, താലൂക്കുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേതിനു യോജിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഇവരുടെ അളവുകൾ ലാൻഡ്റിക്കാർട്ടസൂപ്രണ്ടിൻെറ അളവുകൾക്കു യോജിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഈ കാരണത്താൽ പകുതിജീവനക്കാരിലും അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരിലും പലക്കും പലേ ദോഷങ്ങൾക്കും ഇടയായിരീന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള സർവ്വേയ്ക്കു പല ന്യൂനതകളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ആ സർവ്വേറിക്കാർട്ടുകളും ഭൂമിയുടെ കിടപ്പുമായി പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും യോജിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതു സർവ്വസാധാരണമാണു്. തിരുവനന്തപുരം താലൂക്കിൽതന്നെ രണ്ടോടു, അഞ്ചാമടു ഈ പകുതികളിൽ ഇതിലേക്കു ധാരാളം ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സർവ്വേചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ നിലങ്ങളുടെ അളവുകൾ എപ്പോഴും ശരിയായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ പകുതികളിലുള്ള പലേ നിലങ്ങളുടേയും ആകൃതിയും സർവ്വേപ്ലാനുമായി യോജിക്കാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. നിലങ്ങളുടെ സംഗതിയിൽതന്നെ ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്ലാനിലും, സെറ്റിൽമെൻറ് രജിസ്റ്ററിലും കാണുന്നതിനെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത സ്ഥലത്തുചെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ തുലോം കുറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നതായ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന റെൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൊണ്ടു ലാൻഡ്റിക്കാർട്ടുകളിലുള്ള കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെ തീർക്കുന്നതിനോ അതിനാൽ അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനോ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു

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തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ ഫലമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ഫ ൦ ൻന്യ-ൽ ൻൻ,വ ർ വ ശ്രുപായും ഫ ൦ വ ൬ ൨ ഫ ൦-മാസങ്ങളിൽ ഫ,൨ വ,ർ ൫ ർ ശ്രുപയും ആദായമുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞ തവണ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആദായത്തെ കണക്കാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകളിൽ ചുമത്തുന്ന നിരോധനകരം കുടിശിക ഇവ തീർക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത കുറവെഴുതി വരുന്ന തുക, സിവിൽ കോടതികളിലും റവന്യു ആഫീസ്സുകളിലും തിരിയെ കൊടുക്കാൻ പറയുന്ന തുക, ഇവക്രുടി വരവിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ ഫലമായി സിവിൽ കേസ്സുകൾ കൊടുക്കാനായി എത്രനോട്ടീസ്സുകൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും എത്രസിവിൽ കേസ്സുകൾ ഫൈയ്യലായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കണക്കുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ മുമ്പു നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള കണ്ടെഴുത്തിന്റെ കൃഷ്ണങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ എം. ജോലിയുടെ കൃഷ്ണങ്ങളും ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവിനെപ്പറ്റിനോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൻന്യ ൽ ൱ ൬, ൦ ൨ ർ ശ്രുപയും ൻ ൬-ൽ ൻൻ,൱ ൫ ൦ ശ്രുപായും ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതായും ൻ വ-ൽ ഫ,൫ ൬,൫ ൦ ൦ ശ്രുപാ ചിലവാകുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതായും കാണുന്നു. ഇതുയും ശ്രുപാ ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കി എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിനടത്തിയാലും ആയത് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ വല്ലതായൊരു തുക ചിലവാക്കി അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഫ ൦ വ൱ മുതൽ ഫ ൦ ൻന്യ വരെ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾക്കു ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതിനു തക്കവണ്ണം പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുപോലെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതുപോലെ ഇന്നത്തെ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളേയും അതിൻറെ ചിലവുകളേയും പറഞ്ഞി മറെറാരവസരത്തിൽ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നതിനോ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നതിനോ ഇടയാകരുതെന്നു കരുതീട്ടാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ ഈ സമയത്തും ഈയാണ്ടിലും അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ പോലെയുള്ള ക്രുടിയ ശമ്പളക്കാർ ഈ ജോലിക്ക് ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു വാദിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ ഉദ്ദ്യോഗത്തിനോട് ആക്ഷേപം ഒരു വിരോധത്തിനും കാരണമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാര

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

ന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയെപ്പറ്റി വല്ല തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളും ഉള്ളപക്ഷം അതു നീക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഫൈനാൻസു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള നോട്ട്സു കിട്ടണമെന്ന് ഞങ്ങളിൽ പലരും ഒന്നുചേർന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ നോട്ട്സു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു തരാൻനിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള മറുപടിയാണ് കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളത്. ഫൈനാൻസ്സു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള നോട്ട്സു തരാതിരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന മാതിരിയുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഫ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തിനു ശക്തിയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ബലപ്പെടുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കുള്ള ശമ്പളം തുകയും അതുസംബന്ധമായുള്ള മറ്റു ചിലവുകളും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ശിപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Reference has been made to the notes of the Finance Committee. I think a word of explanation is due from me in regard to that. I do not think in any other Government notes placed before the Finance Committee are published. They are generally treated as confidential. In reply to a request for the publication of these notes it has been stated that they cannot be published. There is nothing which we want to conceal. Any member may come and refer to them. But it is not an easy task to print and circulate them. Whether that procedure would be right or not has also to be considered and it is not a matter which we can decide all at once. In regard to the publication of the proceedings of the Finance Committee, the members will have to be consulted before they are published. These are the reasons for the Government's refusal to place them on the table. As regards the figures, if you will please mention them, they can be very easily explained.

Mr. Robinson, you have come rather late. The motion is for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 33,869 by the abolition of Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, this is an item which engaged the full attention of the Council at its first Session in July 1922. A clear case was then made out for the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars and the Council in a body accepted the necessity for continuing the staff at least as a temporary measure. I have very few arguments to place before the Council in addition to those already advanced. It will, I trust, be conceded that, it is in the interests of the administration as well as the large land-owning population of the country, the work of sub-division, *patta* transfer, prevention of encroachments and maintenance

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of demarcation stones are vital necessities and that work under these items was allowed to fall into bad arrears for a period of 30 years since the last Settlement. This is the justification for the creation of this special staff. Let us now see what work this staff has turned out since its creation. Briefly, it has disposed of 30,000 *patta* transfer cases, effected 40,000 sub-divisions necessary for the disposal of transfer of registry cases and effected also sub-divisions involved in the assignment of *puduval* lands covering an area of over 9,000 acres, demarcated and surveyed about 60,000 *poramboke* fields and detected an equal number of encroachments and has renewed and repaired nearly 3 lakhs of demarcation stones. It has been ascertained that there are still 47,500 *pokkuvaravu* cases, 12,080 *puduval* cases for disposal and 1,75,000 *poramboke* numbers to be verified, demarcated and surveyed in all the taluks together. I may assure you, Sir, that, of these 47,500 *pokkuvaravu* cases, about 40,000 of which involve sub-divisions and that, of the *puduval* cases pending, a good portion relates to survey numbers in which the lands available for registry require sub-division. The responsibility for clearing off these heavy arrears rests with the Land Records Maintenance staff. For, Government have found by actual experience that the normal staff in the villages will not be able to pay any adequate attention to these items of work in addition to their multifarious duties. Government have at different times attempted at solving the difficulty but the schemes have all failed for want of the necessary staff. It was after mature consultation with the officers concerned that the scheme now working was sanctioned. The out-turn of work achieved by the L. R. M. staff will, I think, convince you, Sir, that there is no reason to entertain a pessimistic view of the work of the Assistant Tahsildars. I am not unaware of the adverse criticism often made against the quality of the work turned out by the staff. I do not claim perfection for the work. It is impossible in the very nature of the work. Even with the best care, no two measurements will agree and it should also be considered that a number of cases initially registered as encroachments are found by subsequent enquiry to be cases of real ownershp. I may assure the Council that the work is not accepted without check and counter-check, with the result that when it ulimately emerges in its final shape, it is not open to any of the objections which could be raised against it in its initial stages. The work of the accountants is checked by the Assistant Tahsildar and re-checked by the Land Records Superintendent. It is the technical side of the work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What percentage of cases detected by the accountants are checked by the Assistant Tahsildar?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): 20 per cent.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How much of the Assistant Tahsildar's work is checked by the Land Records Superintendent?

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No percentage is fixed. After this, the party has an opportunity to show that the occupation is not a case of encroachment and it is only cases which are really objectionable and which, to the satisfaction of the superior officers, are real cases of *poramboke* encroachments that are proceeded with under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

It may be urged that, being divested of the Devaswom and magisterial functions, the Tahsildars would be able to take the place of the Assistant Tahsildars and supervise the L. R. M. work. I may be excused when I say at the outset that the suggestion will never work in practice. It is a delusion to think that the separation of the Devaswom and the magisterial functions has taken away so much of the work of the Tahsildars as will allow them time to supervise on the spot the work of the L. R. M. accountants in any manner that may be considered adequate. The object of the Government in divesting the Tahsildars of the said functions was mainly to enable them to pay better attention to the Revenue duties to which they were able to pay but scant attention before, amidst their multifarious duties. The work which the Tahsildars have to do under the various Regulations and Rules as well as the special or general orders of Government is certainly enormous. The revision of Land Revenue accounts both in the Taluk and in the village offices has thrown on them a very heavy responsibility, on the proper discharge of which depends the efficiency of land revenue administration. They have to be constantly on circuit to keep the village Offices running and to do the many inspections that have necessarily to be done in connection with the several items of work. If we confine these officers to the checking of the work done by the L. R. M. accountants, the result will be that all items of work will suffer, including the L. R. M. work. I may say that the process of L. R. M. work does not end with the preparation of a correct sketch or mahazar, for which the L. R. M. staff are meant. The work only begins there and the main part of the work required under the rules has to be done afterwards by the Tahsildar. For example, take a *poramboke* encroachment case. As soon as the sketch and mahazar are received, a case is taken on the file and the party affected is given a notice. The party invariably contests the case and a clear enquiry has to be gone through with reference to the settlement and sometimes the pre-settlement records and all evidence allowed to be let in. Very often, other departments have to be consulted before the land is assigned on registry or the encroachment is removed and the necessary joint inspection has to be made by the Tahsildar along with the other departmental officers concerned. The necessary steps have then to be taken to credit the fine, *taravila*, or tax in the accounts both in the Taluk and Village and to collect the money. It is the Tahsildar who is responsible for the accuracy of all these steps involved. More or less similar are the steps to be taken in respect of the *pokkuvaravu* and *puduval* cases. In the same manner as the Tahsildar is made responsible for

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these important details, it is highly necessary that there should be a reliable officer to be held responsible for the preliminary part of the work referred to. It is for this work that the Assistant Tahsildars are meant. The old system under which the taluk surveyors were playing a prominent part was tried for a long time under varied circumstances prescribed under different rules and was always found wanting in point of both efficiency and honesty and the necessity for having a better class of officers was always felt both by the Government and the public. Man is a being nurtured by hope and any system under which men with no future to look to are made to work is bound to fall in the end. It may easily be said that the Tahsildars were mainly responsible for the failure of the old system in which things were allowed to drift and arrears allowed to accumulate. The question is, why was this so? It may be true to say that one or two Tahsildars were or are not true to their work. But it is certainly too much to say that all the Tahsildars were indifferent to their work when the system failed in spite of its trial for a series of years, even though there was a change in the personnel of the Taluk staff. The only reasonable inference possible is that there was something radically wrong in the system itself.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was this accumulation of heavy arrears due to the multifarious duties of the Tahsildar or to the system of work?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes, to both.

Turning to the revenue side of the L. R. M. work, I must say that the work done so far is encouraging. The revised *Poramboke* Rules prohibiting the levy of more than five years' back assessment, and the imposition of fines in non-objectionable encroachments have affected the revenue to some extent. But I presume that the House will concede that the L. R. M. work is never meant to be a paying concern. The expenditure up to date during 1098 on this special Department is Rs. 56,738 while the amount realised by the exclusive labours of the L. R. M. staff is Rs. 90,000.

I would request the Council to consider whether such a scheme which pays its own expenditure and which is turning out substantial work in the immediate interests of Government and the land-owners and as a preliminary to the coming settlement is not worth a trial. If the work is now to be abandoned, the land records work will not be brought into working order in the near future and it will be necessary at a future date to put on the work an establishment costing much more and the work will then have to be done in a hurry and very unsatisfactorily. I would therefore request the good offices of this House to approve of the scheme and sanction the allotted expenditure, any curtailment of which must necessarily affect the revenue accruing to Government and the out-turn of work as well. I therefore oppose the motion.

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know what work has been turned out by the Assistant Tahsildars during the last eleven months?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will give you the figures.

PRESIDENT: I suppose you have got figures only for ten months.

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

Porambokes surveyed	...	23,891
Stones repaired and renewed	...	1,48,450
Encroachments detected	...	37,530
Area involved in encroachment	...	2,852 acres.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): You referred to the Land Conservancy Regulation. Is it of *taravila* realised by registry of encroachments or of fines that this amount is made up?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): This includes fines, prohibitory assessment, *Kuttakapattom* rent, *taravila*, *tadivila* and back arrears of assessments and *puduvals* assigned, out of those surveyed by the Land Records staff.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know the cost of establishment for the years 1096, 1097 and 1098?

PRESIDENT: If the House will bear with me, I may tell the House that I am asking Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar, Secretary in charge of the Land Revenue Section, to explain everything at some length. All these figures will be given by him. With the permission of the House, I will allow him some minutes more, as, within the five minutes' time that is allotted to him as a member, Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar cannot do all that. Moreover, he can quote figures more readily as he has been dealing with this for a long time. He will explain the matter and I think he will be in a position to answer all your questions. If the House wants, I have no objection to allow the extra time which I allow Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar, to this House in addition to the prescribed time for this demand.

Mr. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): We would like to have all information possible.

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Do the figures given by Mr. Robinson represent the work done exclusively by Assistant Tahsildars?

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No, by the whole L. R. M. staff.

Mr. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, the beginning of land records maintenance in the State was made in the year 1083 soon after the completion of the general survey of the

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State. One Taluk Surveyor was appointed to each settled taluk and the surveyors were required to train the *pakuthi* accountants in survey and other details of work connected with the maintenance of land records and then to start work. The training of the village staff itself took a long time. The actual land records maintenance work was started in 1084 and the work was carried on with a special staff of accountants in some of the taluks of the Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Before proceeding further, may I know what was the staff under each Taluk Surveyor?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One accountant for each *pakuthi*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the staff now allowed to Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 289 accountants and double the number of peons, including both the permanent and temporary staff.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In how many *pakuthies* is the staff working?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are working in 116 *pakuthies*, work being concentrated in four or five *pakuthies* in each taluk.

As no tangible results were seen, the temporary staff was disbanded and a simplified scheme was brought into force from 1090, which worked till the middle of 1096. Even this simplified scheme did not work satisfactorily. The whole question was therefore discussed by the Dewan at a conference of revenue and survey officers, and G. O. No. 12134, dated the 30th December 1920, introducing the scheme under which land records work is now being conducted was the outcome of the resolutions passed at that conference. The scope of the maintenance of land records was narrowed down to the absolutely necessary limits. That is to say, it was confined to the inspection of *poramboke* numbers and sub-numbers, the detection of encroachments, and the demarcation, survey and plotting of *poramboke* numbers, and in the case of other numbers, of those numbers only in which current sub-divisions are involved.

There can be no two opinions that *porambokes* should be maintained free of all encroachments, as they have been reserved as such for the general use of the public, such as roads, lanes, rivers and canals or for communal purposes such as irrigation tanks and channels, grazing grounds and the like. At successive sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and even in this Council, there have been loud complaints made about the imperative need for the removal of encroachments from such *porambokes* and several petitions are being received by Government from day to day pointing out the unauthorised occupations of individual *porambokes* and the need for vacating the encroachments and leaving the *porambokes* intact for public use. Mr. Paul V. Daniel, Mr. A.

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Govinda Menon and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai spoke, I believe, about the need for the removal of encroachments, in this Council at its previous sessions.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are the existing settlement figures of *poramboke* correct?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Settlement areas?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They should be correct as they were arrived at by survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar said last year, when this question was being discussed, that we have no correct measurements of *porambokes*.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That statement probably applies to new *poramboke* sub-divisions treated as such subsequent to the settlement.

Owing to the neglect of timely action and the consequent long occupations and the costly and permanent improvements thereon, it has been found impracticable to remove the encroachments in several cases, even though in the public interests many of them should be removed. It will therefore be conceded that the survey of *porambokes* and the detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable ones among them are most necessary in the interests alike of the Government and of the people, in fact more in the interests of the people than of the Government. This then is the main item of work in which the Land Records staff is now engaged. They are also doing the survey of *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions, and of *puduval* sub-divisions below 10 acres in extent in taluks in which the *Puduval* Survey Party is working and of all *puduval* sub-divisions in the other taluks. The *pokkuvaravu* subdivision work is also very essential for the prompt and easy collection of tax and indispensable both for the people and the Government. Mr. Dominic Tommen has, as you are aware, interpellated Government in this session about the arrears of *pokkuvaravu* work in the *pakuthies* of Kanjirapalli North and South. In fact, the people have been complaining of the inaccuracies in the electoral rolls for the Legislative Council elections and this is due to the defects in the *tandaper* accounts maintained in the *pakuthies* which depend for their accuracy on the transfers of registries being kept up to date. As regards survey of *puduvals*, there is no need for emphasising the importance of a proper survey of a land and for a correct sketch of it before the land is assigned. These two items of work are also being done by the land records maintenance staff. It will thus be seen that the land records work now attempted is absolutely necessary and is the irreducible minimum, and if it is not done, land records will drift into inextricable chaos.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the most important portion of the work done by Assistant Tahsildars? Is it *pokkuvaravu* or *pora nboke*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Their primary duty is the conservation of *porambokes*.

PRESIDENT: Both are equally important. That is a matter of opinion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In checking encroachments, do you go by the settlement areas or by the limits of the *porambokes* as you see them on the ground now?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): *Porambokes* which are settlement sub-divisions are measured according to the settlement areas. But if any *poramboke* has increased in area on account of accretion by the action of the sea, river &c., as for instance at Tangacherry, it is measured according to its limits as you see on the ground now.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Supposing an individual has left out a portion of his holding, will that be included within the limits of the *poramboke*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In such a case measurement is done according to the area recorded for it at the settlement.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Rule 35 reads thus:

"If, however, such *porambokes* have become broader and consequently the original boundaries now fall within the *porambokes*, the *porambokes* should be demarcated and measured as per the existing limits."

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That rule will apply to the second class of cases mentioned by me.

When the arrears under this head are cleared, the Tahsildars can and should easily verify the limits of *porambokes* periodically and maintain them intact till the next settlement. In fact, a regular inspection of *porambokes* and the maintenance of their boundary marks have not been done subsequent to the last survey and this need for the conservation of *porambokes* cannot be over-estimated nor can the work be put off any longer.

The scheme as now worked will, on a careful examination, be found to be most economical. The first principle recognised in it is that the work is one which, were it not for the accumulation of heavy arrears, should be done by the normal taluk and *pakuthi* staffs. In this view a good portion of the staff has been diverted from the taluks and *pakuthies* and also from the permanent staff of the Survey Department and their places have not been filled up. The *Preliminary Budget* will show that the following staff has been so diverted in 1098:—

Taluks and Pakuthies.

Taluk Peons ...	25
Pakuthi Accountants ...	136
Pakuthi Peons ...	390

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Survey Department.

Assistant Superintendent of Survey	...	1
Surveyors (including 2 Head Surveyors)	...	27
Head clerk and Draftsmen	...	6
Menials	...	9

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Dewan Peishkars have not complained that the collection work of the *pakuthies* has suffered?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is true. The Government examined the question carefully on receipt of their reports and it was resolved that, for the year 1099, a minimum staff of one accountant and two peons should be allotted to each *pakuthi*. In other words, some accountants drawn away from the *pakuthies* this year, will be given back, so that the work of *pakuthies* may not suffer. The total number of accountants to be retained in 1099 is to be the same, *i. e.*, 136; But they will be found by re-arrangement from the *pakuthies* in accordance with the principle mentioned.

PRESIDENT: I may add a word. The Government are not convinced that the complaint of the Peishkars is well-founded. For, a village in British India, with an equal area, has only one officer, while we have got two such officers for each village here. The Government are not therefore satisfied that the contention of the Dewan Peishkars is right. Nevertheless, their request is to be complied with to a modified extent.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Further, much of the legitimate work of the *pakuthi* and taluk staff is being done by the Land Records staff. The *pokkuvaravu* sub-division work and the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases, the *puduval* sub-division work, and the eviction of encroachments and the work of examining the Village B. Register, all these items of work are done by the Assistant Tahsildars and their accountants. It is therefore quite reasonable that a portion of the *pakuthi* staff should be diverted to form the special staff for clearing off arrears under land records work.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know if any minimum work was fixed for 1098 and, if so, what is the amount of the work done by the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Their work comes under several heads. They have to examine 20 per cent. of the *poramboke* numbers measured and plotted, 20 per cent. of the *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions effected and 20 per cent. of the field stones planted or repaired by the accountants.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it dependent upon the volume of work turned out by the accountants?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Exactly. The Assistant Tahsildars have to check the work of the

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accountants by constant supervision and satisfy themselves that adequate work is turned out by them.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : If *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions and *pattas* are prepared by the Land Records Maintenance staff, the Tahsildars will have no work. The whole work may be entrusted to the Land Records staff.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : *Pokkuvaravu pattas* are not prepared by the Land Records Maintenance staff. Even with the transfer of the above items of work to the Land Records Maintenance staff, Tahsildars still have a large quantity of work to attend to. Under *pokkuvaravu*, the Assistant Tahsildar surveys the sub-divisions, passes orders in the *pokkuvaravu* cases and transfers the records to the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar takes further action in correcting the Revenue accounts and prepares and issues *pattas*. Under *porambokes*, the Assistant Tahsildar prepares the sketch and *mahazar* of an encroachment and transfers the records to the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar then either starts a *puduval* case and assigns the land, or initiates proceedings under the Land Conservancy Regulation and takes further action under the law. Similarly, with other items of work. In fact, there are several items of work which the Tahsildar has to do. Whatever work the Land Records staff can do in the field is saddled upon the Assistant Tahsildar.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Why not they be asked to do this work also ?

PRESIDENT : Only the Tahsildars have got the power under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

MR. T. P RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : For 1099, the same staff is proposed to be continued with the following modifications :—

Of the *pakuthi* peons, only 155 are to be diverted and the remaining 235 peons are to be sent back to the *pakuthies* as all the Peishkars complain that the normal work of the *pakuthies* suffers for want of a sufficient number of peons. The number of surveyors is to be reduced from 27 to 6 as the work of refixing theodolite stations on the sides of *porambokes* is nearing completion. The temporary staff entertained is only to supplement the permanent staff and the absolutely necessary staff has alone been entertained. In view of the importance and magnitude of the work taken up, the addition on account of the temporary staff cannot be considered to be too much.

The total number of *porambokes* to be inspected and maintained is 2,36,407 and their area 3,23,387 acres; and this, as explained already, is but a portion of the work to be tackled by the Land Records staff.

The work done by the Land Records staff is bound to be unpopular—

PRESIDENT : You must hurry on, Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar.

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): My speech is nearing completion, Sir. Very few *poramboke* cases were—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: Please wait till he finishes his sentence.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): For the same work done by the Tahsildar himself, would he not be unpopular?

PRESIDENT: Your question is purely hypothetical.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Comparatively speaking, very few *poramboke* cases were being attended to by the Tahsildars. They were not doing much work under this head.

The work done by the Land Records staff is bound to be unpopular because no one likes to be told that the compound wall of his house has encroached on road limits and that it should be put back or that the cocoanut plantation he has raised on a water course has to be removed; but this detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable encroachments are the main items of work for which the Assistant Tahsildars have been appointed. The Assistant Tahsildars as a class and their accountants cannot, therefore, in the nature of things, be popular if they do their duties conscientiously and fearlessly. Much of the criticisms levelled against the scheme is unfortunately due to this circumstance. Government have carefully examined the *poramboke* rules, that is, the rules issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation and revised them suitably, so that they may sit on the people very lightly. In the rules, unauthorised occupations have been classified into (1) cases in which occupations, whether temporary or permanent, are unobjectionable, (2) those in which temporary occupation is unobjectionable but permanent occupation is objectionable and (3) those in which the occupation, whether temporary or permanent, is objectionable. The rules lay down that, in the first class of cases, the encroachments should be assigned to the occupants; in the second, the land or trees or both should be leased to them; and in the third case alone is the occupation to be put an end to. No eviction, fine or prohibitory assessment need be imposed in the first class of cases, no eviction is necessary in the second and the penal provisions have to be enforced only in the third class of cases. The prohibitory assessment is to be imposed only on the land and not on the trees, and this assessment should not be any fabulous amount but should be a multiple not exceeding five times the ordinary rates of assessment for the land. The back arrears of such assessment are under no circumstances to be recovered for more than five years. It will thus be seen that the rules could not be made more lenient. Responsible officers like the Assistant Tahsildars are necessary for recording the opinion in each case whether an encroachment is objectionable or unobjectionable and they are required to state their reasons. The entrusting of this responsible work to the village staff or to Taluk Surveyors whose sense of responsibility is low, would

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be disastrous. The Tahsildar may, in cases of doubt or complaints, inspect the land himself before he passes his decisions in *poramboke* cases. The aggrieved parties have a right to go in appeal to the Peishkar and in revision over his appellate decision to the Dewan. The parties are heard at all these stages. In many cases of appeals and revision petitions, the lands have been ordered to be assigned to the occupants. Thus, to the utmost extent possible, the occupations are allowed to be continued. All possible safeguards against hardships to the occupants have therefore been provided in the rules. The scheme should not, therefore, in fairness, be objected to on the ground that a large number of encroachment cases are being started as a result of the labours of the Land Records staff. This is inevitable and it is for the public good.

I will now explain at greater length the details of the work done by the Land Records staff. They are the following :—

Firstly, the refixing of the theodolite stations on the sides of *porambokes* as a preliminary to the survey of *porambokes*, absolutely necessary for correctly fixing their boundaries.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know how long this House will sit ?

PRESIDENT : As I told you, I am prepared to allow you all the extra time which Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar takes *minus* the five minutes he is entitled to. I consider this is a very important matter and I want this House to hear all that has got to be said by Government and come to a dispassionate conclusion. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Ordinarily what is the interval between the refixing of the theodolite stones by the surveyor and the taking up of the case by the accountant ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say exactly, because the surveyors have started the work in advance and the Assistant Tahsildars are following in their wake. I cannot say what exactly is the interval.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Roughly ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : It will vary in the different taluks, and in the *pakuthies* of the same taluk. The longest interval may be the period between the time of refixing of theodolite stones in one *pakuthi* and the present time because some of the *pakuthies* have been left untouched. In those *pakuthies*, the theodolite stones will not have been examined by the Assistant Tahsildar at all.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Since Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar is speaking on behalf of the Government, he will have to give correct information to this House. I have to point out that my question is very important, because one of the essential conditions of land records maintenance is the taking up of these cases close after a correct survey. In their proceedings No. 7380/L. R., dated the 26th July, 1914,

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Government say that the essential condition for the success of the land records maintenance scheme is that it should follow close upon the survey and that a correct survey and that that has been found wanting. What I wish to know is whether the present land records maintenance follows close upon the survey.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The survey contemplated there is a complete survey and not refixing theodolite stones alone. Here, what the surveyors do is only to refix the theodolite stones. Then the Assistant Tahsildars do the rest of the work. In fact, the survey is being done by the Assistant Tahsildar and his staff.

PRESIDENT: The first stage is the refixing of theodolite stones.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Practically, these are both being done now almost together?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; more or less. The surveyors are going on with their refixing work and the Assistant Tahsildars are following in their wake and doing the land records maintenance work.

Secondly, the verification of the original survey boundaries of the *porambokes*.

Thirdly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of the *porambokes*.

Fourthly, the preparation of two extra copies of the plotted sketches of *porambokes*, for reference in the Taluk and Pakuthi Cutcherries.

Fifthly, the detection of encroachments and the preparation of the necessary records therefor.

Sixthly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of the sub-divisions necessitated by *pokkuvaravu*.

And lastly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of *puduval* lands available for registry in survey numbers under ten acres in the twelve taluks in which *puduval* survey party has been working and of all the areas in the remaining taluks.

The first item is alone being done by the surveyors of the Survey Department and the rest by the Assistant Tahsildars helped by their staff of accountants. The Assistant Tahsildars are also disposing of *pokkuvaravu* cases in the villages. Thus, the work that is done by the Assistant Tahsildars is both survey and revenue work unlike the Taluk Surveyors who did only survey work and that, on a small scale, and their work is far more heavy and responsible than the work that used to be done by the Taluk Surveyors of old. These surveyors had mostly no general educational qualifications and many of them had no knowledge of English. Most of the members on the non-official side must have had enough experience of them. There had been numerous complaints about those men and their work, during the time they were attached to the taluk offices, and the Tahsildars, being not fully qualified in survey,

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were unable to detect the flaws in their work and check their vagaries. The present set of Assistant Tahsildars are, on the other hand, all graduates, with the exception of six, and eleven of them are graduates-in-law. They have had a good training in chain and theodolite survey under the superior officers of the Survey Department, and the training in theory and practice they have received is being gradually perfected by the extensive practical work they have now to do in the field under the vigilant supervision of the Superintendent of Land Records. These men are therefore in every way better fitted for doing the work on which they have been put than the Taluk Surveyors, and if they are responsible for the detection of a large number of encroachments, they have to be complimented for the fearless discharge of their duties instead of being made the target of so much criticism.

PRESIDENT: You have got only two minutes more.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How many *pokkuvaravu* cases have been disposed of this year?

PRESIDENT: I think about 25,000 cases.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Up to the end of Medam, over 34,000 have been disposed of.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Out of how many cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The number of cases pending at the beginning of 1098 was 44,000, and the number received during the year was 45,000. The total number of cases for disposal was thus 89,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): How many of them involved sub-divisions?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): About two-thirds roughly.

PRESIDENT: Is it out of those disposed of?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Then how many of them?

PRESIDENT: 25,000 and odd.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The extent of land involved in these cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures for that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is any information available in regard to the cases detected before the new arrangement was introduced?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have the figures of *poramboke* cases before and after the scheme, but not of encroachments detected.

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[Mr. T P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the percentage of sketches sent for correction by the Land Records Staff which have been returned after correction by the Land Records Superintendent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Over 4,000 and odd. This information has been given in answer to an interpellation during this session.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it for 1098?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For nine months in 1098.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Out of how many sketches sent up?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I can't say.

PRESIDENT: The percentage is very small. It works out to about 4 per cent. if I remember right.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there any difference between the supervision now exercised and that by the Survey Superintendent in the past?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Considerable. Under the old arrangement, whenever the Superintendent or his assistant went out anywhere on circuit, they used to check the land records work from *outside*. Now, the Assistant Tahsildars are doing it from *inside*. They are practically living with the accountants *in the pakuthies* for 20 to 25 days in the month and checking their work. That matters all the difference. The work of the Assistant Tahsildar is further checked by the Land Records Superintendent.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How many *pokkuvaravu* cases were disposed of by the Tahsildars in 1095 before the separation of this work and the appointment of the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 53,006 cases.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): Out of how many cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Out of 86,000 cases.

PRESIDENT: How many of them involved sub-divisions?

MR. T P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not the information here just now.

The work was commenced on the 1st Kumbhom 1096 in the 14 backwater taluks and in the remaining taluks from the 1st Edavom 1096. The refixing work of the theodolite surveyors is nearing completion, and there is a balance of work only in 53 out of 400 *pakuthies*, and this

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will be completed well within the close of 1099 by the small staff of 6 surveyors, who alone are to be retained in 1099 for the purpose, against the 25 surveyors in the current year 1098. The Land Revenue Commissioner has given you the figures of out-turn achieved by the Land Records staff in 1098. I shall not therefore repeat them.

It will be seen that the out-turn achieved by the staff in the ten months of 1098 is, except under one or two items, very much greater than that for 1097. This shows that the Assistant Tahsildars have, by their past experience, now obtained a grasp of their work. It will be seen that more than one-fourth of the total number of *porambokes* have hitherto been demarcated and surveyed. It may, however, be mentioned that the progress achieved is not rightly judged by the number of *porambokes* completed because the operations have hitherto been going on in large backwaters, rivers, roads, canals etc., which have only one survey number assigned to them for each *pakuthi*. For instance, in one *Kayal* survey number, a large number of accountants will have worked for several months and yet, for purposes of out-turn, this is reckoned only as one number. Many of the large *porambokes* have now been completed and what remains for attention are the comparatively smaller *porambokes*. It is therefore expected that, as judged even by the number of *porambokes* completed, a much greater percentage of out-turn will be shown in future. Till now the land records work under the present scheme has been completed in 84 *pakuthies* and the staff is now working in 116 *pakuthies*. The balance of work that remains is the following, *viz.*, 1,75,000 *poramboke* numbers to be verified, surveyed and plotted; 40,000 *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions to be surveyed and about an equal number of *pokkuvaravu* cases to be disposed of, and the sub-division survey of *puduval* lands involved in applications. Under *pokkuvaravu* and *puduvals* more work will be coming.

The Land Records Department is, strictly speaking, not a revenue-yielding department and the necessity for the continuance of the staff should not therefore be judged by the revenue it yields but by a realisation of the urgency and importance of the work it has to do. Nevertheless, in the discharge of the work entrusted to the Land Records staff here, they have brought in a very large amount of revenue. In the backwater and other bigger *porambokes*, several registries had been made during the settlement and subsequently by the Revenue Department. But these holdings have not been demarcated and correctly surveyed. Owing to the absence of survey marks, numerous encroachments have been made on these *porambokes*. Now the Land Records staff are demarcating all such registries and the excess over the registered holdings is taken as an encroachment. Similar encroachments are also detected in the smaller *porambokes*. Such of the encroachments as are unobjectionable are transferred to *tharisu* and registered in the names of the occupants. Those encroachments, the permanent registry of which is alone objectionable, are leased to the occupants. Only in the case of the encroachments whose occupation whether temporary or permanent—is objectionable, are the occupants evicted. These processes

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

bring in a revenue in the shape of *taravila*, *tadivila*, back arrears of assessment, *kuthagapattom* rent, prohibitory assessment and fines. Most of these encroachments would never have come to light but for the Land Records staff and that staff may therefore legitimately take credit for this revenue. As already stated, the Land Records staff has also surveyed over 9,000 acres of *puduval* lands and the registry of these lands also yields a revenue in the shape of *taravila* and other dues. The total amount realised by the labours of the Land Records staff under these two heads since the commencement of their operations is Rs. 3,22,098. This is very much more than the expenditure incurred on account of the additional temporary staff entertained for Land Records work in these years amounting to Rs. 1,66,679.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does that include the salary of the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. Including the pay of the Assistant Tahsildars which amounts to Rs.80,800, the total cost amounts to Rs. 2,47,479 on the whole.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does it include the salary of the Land Records Superintendent?

MR. T P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, he is a permanent officer, and no substitute has been appointed in his place in the Survey Department.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): May we know when the work will be completed?

PRESIDENT: We cannot commit ourselves to a definite statement.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): Last year, Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar said that it will be completed in two years.

MR T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar expected that the work might be finished in about two years. But the President said it was not possible to fix a definite period immediately.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): Approximately what time will it take?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Member be pleased to state approximately what more time it will take?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As regards the time within which the balance of work could be completed, it is not practicable to give a correct forecast because the volume of survey work to be done, the number of stones missing and these requiring repair and other details of the work to be done are not in the nature of things ascertainable beforehand. Still, on a rough calculation, the Superintendent of Land Records estimates that a period of

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three years will as an outside estimate be required for completing the whole work with the staff now allowed, but it might be possible to finish it in two years.

PRESIDENT: A definite period cannot be fixed.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to add a word or two to what has already been said on this side of the House in regard to the land records maintenance scheme. So far as I could see, both sides of the House are practically agreed that there are heavy arrears under land records maintenance and that their prompt clearance is essential to the efficient administration of land revenue. The House also has an idea of the enormous quantity of the arrear work remaining to be done under this head. Now the question is what arrangement should be made to work off these arrears, whether the normal staff of the Land Revenue Department will be able to cope with them or whether the employment of a special agency is really necessary for their disposal.

In considering this question, two important facts have to be borne in mind. In the first place, it has to be remembered that under the rules, all original work connected with land records maintenance, as distinguished from the work of supervision, has to be done by village accountants. That is to say, whether in the case of a *poramboke* field or a *pokkuvaravu* sub-division or a *puduval* sub-division, the verification of its boundaries and its demarcation, survey and plotting have all to be done by village accountants. This is a laborious process. Take for instance the case of a *poramboke* field. Its boundaries have to be first verified with reference to the original measurements. This is not always easy because more than 75 per cent. of the demarcation stones planted on the ground at the time of original survey are now found missing, and the measurements of the holdings adjoining the *poramboke* have very often to be taken before its boundaries are indentified. The next process is the demarcation of the boundaries of the *poramboke*. If the landholders concerned do not plant stones on the boundaries, in pursuance of the notice issued to them, the accountant has to produce the required number of stones from his stock and plant them. This means he has to go to the field a second time for the purpose of demarcation. After demarcation, he has to survey the field and prepare the necessary plotted sketch. Should there be encroachments on the *poramboke*, he has also to prepare a sketch of it showing the area and nature of the encroachments and the name and address of the person responsible for the same. I mention these details to show that the work is of an arduous nature requiring close application. The other fact to be remembered in this connection is that the village establishments throughout the State were revised more than twelve years ago and that the existence of heavy arrears under L. R. M. work was not then taken into consideration in fixing the staff for the several *pakuthies*. You will find that there are only 608 accountants for all the 409 *pakuthies* in the State. This staff is intended to attend to the current work. Even this work in some of the

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

pākuthies has become so heavy that the necessity for splitting up the *pakuthies* or augmenting their staff has been more than once urged upon the attention of Government. How then can we expect the normal village staff to get through the arrears which have accumulated since the completion of settlement? Once the arrears are cleared, the normal staff will be in a position to carry on the current work; but for the disposal of the arrears within a reasonable time, a special staff of village accountants appears absolutely necessary.

If it is conceded that a special village staff is indispensable for the clearance of the arrears, the next point for consideration is whether the Tahsildars will be able to effectively check and supervise the work of the special village staff. The L. R. M. scheme is proposed to be continued in 26 taluks. The Tahsildars in charge of 5 of these taluks have to exercise magisterial functions also and they will hardly find time to attend to the arrears of land records maintenance work. Even in the case of the remaining 21 taluks, I do not think it will be possible for the Tahsildars to devote adequate attention to the supervision and scrutiny of the work of the special accountants. This will be clear from an examination of the nature and scope of the supervision work now done by an Assistant Tahsildar. I would invite the attention of the House to rules 43 to 53 of the L. R. M. rules, enumerating the duties of the Assistant Tahsildar. The Assistant Tahsildar has to get up early in the morning and be in the field by 6 or 7 A. M. and could get back by 11 or 12 only. Generally the work-spot is about 3 or 4 miles away from his camp and so his actual journey to the work-spot and back takes about 2 hours. The refixing of the boundaries of 3 or 4 *porambokes* will take as many hours. He will then have to check the measurements newly taken for independent plotting of the fields. In the afternoon, he has to check the plottings of the fields inspected in the morning, scrutinise the records and diaries of the accountants with reference to the records prepared up to the date of inspection. He has to re-compute the areas and check the plottings of 20 per cent. of the *poramboke* numbers. He has also to record his remarks as to the assignability or otherwise of the encroachments inspected by him in the morning. Twenty per cent. of the *pokkuvaravu* and puduval sub-divisions demarcated by the accountants has also to be checked by each Assistant Tahsildar. In other words, each Assistant Tahsildar has to put in about 7 or 8 hours' tight work daily in the office and field together. The accountants are low-paid men and they are likely to scamp their work unless it is closely and effectively supervised on the spot. It is idle to expect the Tahsildars to do this intensive kind of work without prejudice to their other duties. As a mattter of fact, we find that they are not even able to follow up the work done by the Land Records staff. For example, out of the 20,321 encroachment cases detected by that staff in 1097, only 6,699 cases were disposed of by the Tahsildars. That being the case, how can they do all the supervision work now done by the

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Assistant Tahsildars? The replacement of the latter by the Taluk Surveyors of old will be objectionable for more reasons than one. I would therefore ask the House to seriously consider the question in all its aspects before they resolve to throw the land records scheme overboard. A good portion of the arrears has been cleared off already. The special staff is properly equipped and trained and the work is in full swing and if they go on like this, they will be able to wipe off the arrears in two or three years' time. If on the other hand, they are suddenly disbanded and the work retransferred to the normal revenue staff, practically nothing will get done. They will be struggling against the accumulated arrears as they have been doing prior to 1096. The land records will get more and more into a muddle and seriously hamper the administration of land revenue. As the old adage says, a stitch in time saves nine. If we cannot make up our mind to spend some extra money and work off the arrears within a reasonable time we shall have to spend several times the amount in the near future for a regular re-survey of the taluks which will become inevitable.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In regard to this vexed question of the Assistant Tahsildars, the Dewan in his reply to the representations at the last session of the Assembly said that there was very great difficulty in getting the sanction of the Legislative Council for the continuance of these officers. Last year it was promised that the question will be re-examined in 1098 and we are now at it. I may be permitted to state that I was one of those who had an opportunity to examine this question very thoroughly in the Finance Committee and I have not been convinced of the necessity of continuing this scheme. I listened very carefully to the arguments advanced by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar to see whether there was any further fact deserving of consideration. I find that almost all these facts were placed before the Finance Committee and fully discussed. At any rate, in regard to one or two facts referred to by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, I might speak a few words. It was almost conceded that, but for the heavy arrears that have accumulated, it should be possible and it would be possible for the ordinary *pakuthi* staff to attend to the land records maintenance work. It was certainly the arrears that formed the basis of this scheme and the justification for the continuance of the same.

Now without going into the merits of the case, on the admission of the Government itself during the last 2½ years, the Assistant Tahsildars, those efficient young graduates, have been able to work down a large volume of arrears; nevertheless there remain very many more cases to be attended to, and it cannot be now ascertained when the work will be completed; the Land Records Superintendent would say that it would take two more years. My point is that since the Assistant Tahsildars have already disposed of a large portion of the arrears it may be possible for the Tahsildar and the ordinary *pakuthi* staff, if necessary together with some of the special accountants, to dispose of the remaining cases. With these temporary accountants it would be

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possible for the survey staff and the Tahsildar to attend efficiently to the land records work. The Assistant Tahsildars were created as Executive Assistants of the Tahsildars to relieve the latter of their land registry and *poramboke* work, since in the midst of their multifarious duties such as Devaswom and Magisterial work they were unable efficiently to discharge their land records work.

Now the conditions have altered considerably and the Tahsildars should be able and ought to be made to do the land records maintenance work that legitimately appertains to them. If any Tahsildar is not able to cope with his work, you should put in such Tahsildars as will be able to attend to his work because to me it appears that the land records work forms as much his legitimate work as the collection of revenue. I would also say that the Tahsildars had 32 surveyors, about 25 of whom have since been transferred to the Survey Department. Twenty-one of them are hereafter to do the original *puduval* survey work which is of a temporary nature.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid there is some misapprehension. Such a large staff is not to do the temporary *puduval* survey work which is practically being stopped.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Under original *puduval* survey, the budget for 1099 provided for eleven surveyors.

PRESIDENT: For correction work.

MR. G PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, Sir, for correction work there is a different provision.

PRESIDENT: No. There is only a small staff of four surveyors for original survey work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): For the original there are ten. For correction work, eleven surveyors are deputed. Now, the Tahsildars together with the surveyors who have been transferred from the Land Revenue Department to the Survey Department should be able to do this land records work which forms one of the most legitimate duties of the land revenue Department. I have no complaint whatever against land records maintenance. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most essential functions of the Land Revenue Department and the people are no doubt in favour of the rectification of land records. The only difference of opinion relates to the agency to be employed, whether the Taluk establishment or the Assistant Tahsildar should perform this work. Why should a new staff of costly officers be created for the reason that the Regular *pakuthi* staff was neglecting the work which formed part of their legitimate duties. It is the new agency employed for this work that I object to and under existing circumstances I see no justification whatever for the continuance of the Assistant Tahsildars.

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MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I support this motion. I have to submit that our Assistant Tahsildars are not to be bothered with the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases.

PRESIDENT: There again there is a misapprehension. They are not to dispose of all *pokkuvaravu* cases; they dispose of *pokkuvaravu* cases where local enquiry is necessary and they also dispose of *pokkuvaravu* cases involving sub-division.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Even there I do not agree. The disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases involves two or three functions. All that is necessary is to find out the proportion of the tax to be paid on the properties to be transferred by one party to another. That is done long before the disposal of the *pokkuvaravu* cases generally. What I mean is this, that as soon as a property is transferred from one man to another, which is done either by a registered document or by a registry in the case of *janmam*

PRESIDENT: Such cases are not disposed of by the Assistant Tahsildars, as I told you.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Such cases also arise, and I am aware of these being disposed of by them.

PRESIDENT: They are contested cases.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): When the property is thus transferred, the owner asks the *proverthicar* to let him know the exact tax he has to pay. As one of his functions is to ascertain the exact amount of tax, it is done by the *proverthicar*. There are not many taluks in which there are *pokkuvaravu* cases involving sub-divisions. Taluks where properties are conveyed by halves or portions of a survey number or area are very rare. In my part of the country, central Travancore, we are not in the habit of transferring properties in halves or by fractions of survey numbers or by branches of trees except where partition deeds are executed. Such cases are rare. Even this work is entrusted to the *proverthicar* and his accountant and to a clerk who is even now in the taluk office, to look after the *pokkuvaravu* cases under the supervision of the taluk Tahsildar. These Assistant Tahsildars are thus not to be entrusted with that work.

As regards sub-division, I do not know whether the work that should really be done is done even by the Assistant Tahsildar. The sub-division of property conveyed by one party to another requires a Tahsildar to go to the spot and do the work. I am not sure whether even the Assistant Tahsildars are doing that work in that way. They may do the work in paper, but they may not actually go to the spot. I have not come across any case where the Assistant Tahsildar has done it on the spot. So I think these cases can be disposed of by other agencies than these Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I correct a statement? The number of *pokkuvaravu* cases disposed of this year comes to 14,228. It is not a small number.

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ താലൂക്കിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. എന്റെ ആലോചനയിലും അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം ശരിയാണെന്നു തോന്നീട്ടുണ്ട്. അയൽതാലൂക്കിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും മറ്റു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നിവസിയ്ക്കുന്നവരായ പൌരന്മാർക്കും അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് തഹശീൽദാർ വേണ്ടെന്നു തന്നെയാണ് അഭിപ്രായമെന്നു പലവിധത്തിൽ എനിക്കറിയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവരെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടാൽ ഞാൻ എന്റെ താലൂക്കിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സ്നേഹിതനായിരിയ്ക്കയില്ല. ഇവർ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസ്സുകളും മറ്റും എടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ജനങ്ങൾക്കവരോട് വിരോധമെന്നു ഗവർൺമെന്റിനു തോന്നിയേക്കാം. വഴിയൊ, തോടൊ, കുളമൊ മറ്റ് ഇതു പോലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സൌകര്യത്തിനാകുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലങ്ങളൊ ആരെങ്കിലും ആക്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ ഒഴിച്ചിടുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു സന്തോഷത്തിനേ വകയുള്ളു. അസ്ഥാനത്തു ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുവാനായി പുറമ്പോക്കു എടുക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പുണ്ടാകുന്നു. പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകളും ഇവർ തീർത്തിരുന്നുയെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ അല്പ ഇവർ അധികം എടുപ്പെട്ടു കാണുന്നതു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷയ്ക്കനുസരണമായ ഫലം വെളിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല.

ദേവസ്വവും മജിസ്ട്രീരിയലും ജോലികളും ഒഴിച്ചതിൽ പിന്നെ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു ജോലി തീരെ കുറവാണ്. മുമ്പൊ ക്രമത്തിലധികം ജോലിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അധികജോലിചെയ്യുവർ വിശ്രമാർത്ഥം ഉറങ്ങാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്ന പോലെയായിരിയ്ക്കാം ഇവർ സുഖനിദ്രയിൽ ലയിക്കുവാൻ ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കരം പിരിവിന്റെ കാലങ്ങളിൽ പകുതികളിലുള്ളവരെ ഉത്സാഹിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാൻ കുറെ ഉണർന്നു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ആസമയത്തേ പകുതികളിലുള്ളവർക്കും പറയത്തക്കജോലികളുള്ളു. മറ്റു സമയങ്ങളിൽ തഹശീൽദാരും പകുതിഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ജോലിചെയ്യാമെന്നുവച്ചാൽ പോക്കുവരവു, പുറമ്പോക്കു മുതലായി ഇപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ജോലികളെല്ലാം ശരിയായി ചെയ്തു തീർക്കാം. കുഴിയുന്നതും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണം കുറച്ചു് ഉള്ളവരെ കൊണ്ടു വേണ്ടവിധം ജോലികൾ നടത്തിയ്ക്കയാണ് ജനങ്ങ

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ഠക്കും ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും ഗുണകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിനാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ പറ്റി ഇത്രയധികം ഉപന്യസിക്കണോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അതു വേണ്ട ഇനിയും തീർന്നിട്ടില്ല.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLY (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Sir, the fact that the question about the Assistant Tahsildar had been hardly contested in the last budget session gave food to the people for further thought and enquiry in the matter. As a result I see that there is a consensus of opinion against the retention of this class of officers. At least as regards my constituency, I can assure you, Sir, that as a whole they are of opinion that the Assistant Tahsildars are absolutely unnecessary. The Tahsildars, whose legitimate function is to look after the work of land records maintenance, are now, as Mr. Kunjitomman remarked and as many of us know personally, having a very good time of it. Under the circumstances, especially as the greater portion of the arrears which they made and for which the Assistant Tahsildars were appointed to help them, have now been finished, they can do the work themselves; and we can do away with this class of officers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the species of officers known as the Assistant Tahsildars, though not of long standing, have got an interesting history. I may refer to their development briefly. At the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, in your address to the Assembly, you laid down certain specific proposals to utilise the services of the Assistant Tahsildars. In that year, fifteen Assistant Tahsildars were employed in connection with the land records maintenance work and another batch was then undergoing training for the same purpose. It was also pointed out that there was considerable neglect in the matter of land records maintenance work; there was a large number of encroachments upon communal lands. To rectify the errors in the survey, that is, the survey that preceded the last settlement, which was assumed to be imperfect and often erroneous and also to effect sub-division work as well as to detect encroachments and to eject trespassers, these officers would, it was said, be of considerable use. It was also forecasted in that address that within a couple of years the ground would be prepared for the ensuing re-settlement. These hopes received considerable impetus that year. I see on pages 33 and 34, from representations made by a nominated member—not an elected member—from South Travancore, that there were considerable encroachments on lanes and paths in the Agastisvaram and Eraniel taluks and that he wanted the assistance of Government to set matters right. Endearing promises

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were held out by Government, and somehow or other the people on the whole allowed the screw to be applied without understanding how it was going to work. At the eighteenth session of the Assembly, that is, next year, we see that the screw had got pretty tight by the time, with the result that representatives from four or five taluks agitated seriously that the land records maintenance work and the operation of the Assistant Tahsildars were an unmixed evil. They cried for deliverance from the operations of these officers. But the Government said that the very ground of their complaint was an argument for their retention and their complaints were not regarded properly except that the fringes of the machinery were oiled and certain concessions and certain alleviating rules were also granted. When we come to the nineteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the operation of the screw may be seen to be sufficiently excruciating with the result that two members, one from Mavelikara and another from Kunnattur made lamentable representations which certainly must have been laid to heart by the Government; but they were also promised that ultimately it would be to their advantage and good, that the result they were going to have was certainly the termination of all trouble and that this land records maintenance work was absolutely necessary.

This is their short history; and coming later on, we see that the Assistant Tahsildars themselves came in for a large amount of criticism in the Administration Reports. This year what we notice is that the Assistant Tahsildars with their attendants, the accountants and peons, were all formed into a particular group and were placed directly under the Assistant to the Survey Superintendent, who himself underwent a change in his nomenclature by becoming the Superintendent of Land Records.

The question that arises in this connection mainly is first of all why the forecast of two years during which these people were to get through their work has been falsified. Secondly, what is the continuing necessity underlying the appointment of all these officers. It is on an assumption that these officers have been started to work.

PRESIDENT: I would request you to have regard for time. Already you have taken six minutes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have I not got ten minutes? I had sent a motion.

PRESIDENT: I did not recollect it. I am sorry. You have ten minutes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The prime duty of the Assistant Tahsildar as may be seen from the proceedings of the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly is to inspect and check *poramboke*s. Now, that implies necessarily that the Government assumes that there are large encroachments upon *poramboke*s.

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PRESIDENT: I do not think you have ten minutes. You admitted your motion was identical. But you may finish your speech.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Nobody is certain of the sort of encroachment that has been made upon the *porambokes* hitherto. Therefore these officers are appointed in the hope that *porambokes* have been encroached upon. But where is the datum which enables us to know to what extent these *porambokes* have been encroached upon?

PRESIDENT: Survey.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is the survey no doubt. I shall come to the question very soon. With respect to the prime duty of the Assistant Tahsildar, it is said to be the detection of the encroachment on *porambokes*. We have absolutely nothing to proceed upon in the shape of ascertained facts.

We have to proceed upon the basis of the existing survey. The land records maintenance staff is not conducting a re-survey. The existing survey has been admitted to be considerably imperfect and often erroneous. If it is accepted as the basis and these officers are allowed to go on, no doubt they will be able to find out quite a large number of encroachments. The number of encroachments detected in 1096 was 6,999, in 1097, 20,324 and in the first the months of 1098, 37,000 and odd. Evidently, when once they were appointed, they have been able to find out encroachments in a progressively increasing manner. How many of these are real encroachments have yet to be tested by the decisions of civil courts. I understand that already a large number of notices of suit have been served upon the Government with respect to the correctness of these evictions. And the number of suits against Government to be filed hereafter will, I am sure, show a rise in the various District Courts. I ask whether the Land Revenue Commissioner is in a position to give us an idea of the figures.

PRESIDENT: He will give the information in his reply.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I drew attention by means of an interpellation to the statistics of cases filed in the Kottayam District Court in which the Sirkar was defendant and had to pay damages and costs. We will therefore have to pay more in future years.

PRESIDENT: May I correct you and point out that as a matter of fact we are providing only a less amount for 1099 under Law charges in the Land Revenue budget?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): We cannot be sure of that till the revised estimates for 1099 are prepared.

As for the correct ascertaining of encroachments, have we got any more solid material than the survey records now available? People clamour for the copies of *ozhugus* of the prior settlements of 1012 and 993 M. E.

PRESIDENT: Copies of *ozhugus* are being furnished.

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is what I find from the answer to an interpellation by Mr. Nidiry. It was said that copies would be furnished when proper occasions are pointed out. But all the same, the experience is that copies are not issued.

So,the nature of the work turned out by these people remains to be seen. It has been incidentally pointed out that they are bringing in some revenue. They brought in Rs. 99,948 in 1096 and more than Rs. 1 lakh in 1097. This fact creates an undercurrent of suspicion as to the objects of Government in making these appointments. There is a decline in the demand for *puduval* revenue without which in recent years it has been found that administration cannot successfully get on. Though there has been a considerable decline in the demand for regular *puduvals*, it is the duty of the budget framer to balance the budget. That is a serious matter. What the Assistant Tahsildars and the Land Records Department are really attempting is to force *puduvals* on people who do not want them. Encroachments are thus detected where there are none, and the people are compelled to take the registry of these and avoid the trouble and conflict with Government. People who do not directly go in for *puduva's* are obliged to go in for them, and the revenue is thus kept up. The revenue thus realised in 1097 was Rs. 1,33,987. This consisted partly of fines and partly of *vilayartham*, back arrears, and prohibitory assessment. A portion of this will be an addition to the recurring revenue as well. What is popularly believed is that, in order to escape from the possible contingency of a deficit from the *puduval* lands, the Land Records Department inflicts *puduval* upon people. That, I submit, is a very undesirable procedure.

As my friend Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai said, nobody is against the preservation of *porambokes*. Nobody wants to throw any obstacle in the way of Government doing that work. It must, however, be properly done.

Supposing the work is finished in two years, and the land records maintenance work devolved on the normal staff of the Revenue Department will not the arrears accumulate again and the present process have to be repeated?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar said that it should be possible for the normal staff to keep current hereafter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In 1083, the settlement was completed and it was found in 1092 that the work of land records maintenance was in arrears and should be seriously taken up. The lapse of eight or ten years brought about the accumulation of arrears we are face to face with. Six or seven years after the completion of work by the Assistant Tahsildars, a similar difficulty may arise and the land revenue maintenance staff revived.

We now maintain a Survey Department costing—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Rs. 86,000.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No; it costs Rs. 1,75,000 according to the Statistics Volume.

PRESIDENT: That includes expenditure on the *Puduval* Survey Party as well.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Twenty-six surveyors have been transferred from the Revenue Department. There is also the ordinary staff of the *pakuthies* and the taluks. With respect to the office of the Tahsildar, it has been acknowledged by Government that his work has considerably been lightened. In this year's address to the Popular Assembly, you say as follows:—

"It has freed land revenue officers of the heavy extraneous duty of administering Sirkar Devaswoms and has made it possible for them to pay greater attention to, and to perform more efficiently, their legitimate revenue work. It has also enabled the Government to effect a reduction in the number of taluks and divisions".

If that were the case, certainly, we can give the Tahsildars a trial in the matter. The Assistant Tahsildars were called into existence at a time when the Tahsildars were overburdened with all manner of work. These works have now been taken away from them. We have not given the Tahsildar anything like a proper trial to see whether he can cope with the work that has been assigned to the Land Records Maintenance staff. In the absence of such experiment, the continuance of the Assistant Tahsildars is based on conjecture only, though I have been listening carefully to the arguments urged by Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar and Mr. Krishna Pillai.

PRESIDENT: It is not correct to say that we have not added to the work of the Tahsildar. The income tax work, for example, is being done by him.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The income tax work is not a very serious work as will be seen from the amount collected. That certainly cannot counterbalance the work that has already been taken away from him. If this House is not satisfied that the Tahsildar is not really able to cope with the work, it will be time enough to consider the appointment of a fresh agency when that is established.

With these observations, I support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Sir, I also wish to speak a few words in this connection. We had a lot of discussion about the matter. I do not want to repeat the arguments advanced on this subject. After hearing the official and the non-official sides, there seems to be one point on which both sides agree, that is to say, that the Assistant Tahsildar is an unpopular man. Of course, from the official side it has been suggested that he ought to be so, because he has to deal with *pora nboke* trespasses. My reply to that is, that then every Magistrate and every Munsiff must be equally unpopular as they are dealing with criminal and civil trespasses. Still I fail to see why one class of the officers should be unpopular even if they do not go astray. We do not get a general cry that the Munsiff or the Magistrate is unpopular. So the reason alleged by the official side as to the

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unpopularity of the Assistant Tahsildars does not appeal to me. But on the other hand, as has been observed by many of the speakers on this side of the House, it will be seen that not only the constituencies which have returned us, but also ourselves are more or less satisfied that their retention is not justifiable. It will be seen from one of the answers elicited by my friend Mr. Panjikaran that before 1095, arrears with regard to this work were managed without the assistance of the Tahsildars and the fear was not so great as it is now. Perhaps there must have been progress.

PRESIDENT: Arrears were not brought to light.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): The comparative statement of work which has been furnished does not speak in favour of Assistant Tahsildars. Though there was a separate agency appointed to work out and clear the arrears, the percentage of result is not quite satisfactory.

PRESIDENT: I think it was explained. The Tahsildars were formerly disposing of cases which did not involve any real work, where as here each case involves sub-division work on the field.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Anyhow, as has been pointed out from this side of the House, I am of opinion that it is good to give the Tahsildars a proper trial before any further amount is spent on Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Last time, Sir, at the time of the general discussion of the budget there was a consensus of opinion that the Assistant Tahsildars must go. Later on, when the motion for demands came up for discussion, several of the non-official members opposed it. The Deputy President opposed it on the ground that by its abolition a large body of well-educated men will have to be suddenly thrown out of employment at the beginning of their official career. A few of us came to the Council with a predisposition against Assistant Tahsildars; but afterwards when new sources of information and light penetrated into our heads, we thought we would wait and see whether the Assistant Tahsildars would justify their existence. A few of us suggested that in the light of the facts that Devaswom work had been separated and that magisterial powers were also taken away from the Tahsildars, it would be possible to make a re-adjustment of work. My friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai was one of those who suggested that the Tahsildar ought to be given a trial and I believe he is now repeating the same suggestion. My humble contention then was that their number should be reduced by two-thirds. Sir, much has been said about Taluk Surveyors who have been characterised at the last budget discussion as bloodsuckers. Now, a large volume of opposition against Assistant Tahsildars in this House also shows that he is not a popular man. What I infer from this is that it is because of the nature of the work entrusted to him. The work of finding out

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poramboke encroachments and checking measurements of survey numbers is bound to be unpopular, since the survey records are faulty and field measurements are admitted to be wrong. So also the sub-division sketches. That is because the settlement classifier did the work mainly on paper without going to the actual spot and surveying sub-division numbers and because of the classifier having done it much later than the survey. It is with these faulty records that the present Taluk Surveyors or Assistant Tahsildars have to go to the spot and verify the measurements. Naturally, therefore, owing to the existing mistakes, his work is bound to create discontent among the people. We have to remember at the same time that the Taluk Surveyor had not all the facilities which are now being given to the Assistant Tahsildars. When questioned, Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar said that a Taluk Surveyor had one accountant and an Assistant Tahsildar has now about seven.

PRESIDENT: That is a mistake. He said one accountant for each *pakuthi*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): There are 867 men altogether for 116 *pakuthies*.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has included peons also.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The surveyor had to depend ordinarily on the normal *pakuthi* staff. At most times the *pakuthi* staff will have to attend upon somebody or other and the work naturally had to suffer. At any rate, it is now admitted that the Tahsildar is relieved of some of his work. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar was telling us that a clear case was made out for the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars. I would ask whether a case has been made out for the retention of *all* the Assistant Tahsildars. It was stated last year by Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar, Mr. Robinson's predecessor, that:

"The disposal of revenue cases, and in the case of some Tahsildars, magisterial cases, also treasury work, income tax work, collection work, and the general administration work of the taluk will not enable the Tahsildar *without some assistance* to attend to the land records maintenance work as well, especially now when that work is so much in arrears, owing to the incomplete condition of land records".

Mr. Raja Raja Varma also who has considerable practical experience and practical working of the land records maintenance work remarked:

"Although Government had made more or less spasmodic efforts in previous years to clear off the arrears, it has not been possible for them to do so *with the normal staff*".

So that both these experienced revenue officers have admitted that with *some* assistance the present Tahsildar could manage the work. It does not matter whether the assistance given to the present Tahsildar is in the shape of Taluk Surveyor or Assistant Tahsildar. I submit there need not be any quarrel about the name given to these unpleasant subordinates. The Tahsildars or his subordinates will be unpopular so long as the nature of the work they have to do is of this kind. As Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar and the Land Revenue Commissioner told us, the land records maintenance work is being done by the special staff excepting the disposal of land acquisition cases. If that be the policy, either

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

this much-maligned Tahsildar must go or all this L. R. M. establishment must go. I have also to draw the attention of the House to the fact that a portion of the work might be done by the Survey Superintendent's office. It is ordinarily a temporary office in every country. We have got a Survey Superintendent on Rs. 500, four Head Surveyors on Rs. 75-100 and eleven other Surveyors and other highly paid litho-draftsman and others costing Rs. 96,000. I think they are devoting their time to *puduval* sketches and plotting the areas. I suppose that is quite an unnecessary work. These surveyors might be dragged out of their den and made to do the work. Personally I have to travel much. It is about fourteen years since I saw the Survey Superintendent and I should like to know how he looks, as I have not been able to see him. I submit the Head Surveyors are very good men for doing —

PRESIDENT: We are not dealing with survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Considerable re-adjustment of the work could be made by rendering suitable help to the Tahsildar.

MR. S. SUBRAHMAÑYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, from the trend of arguments made by my learned brothers on this side of the House and the counter-arguments advanced by the learned officers on the other side of the House—one for abolishing and the other for retaining the Assistant Tahsildars—I am at a loss to know whose position is maintainable. Can it be that the Government are bent upon wasting money by the retention of Assistant Tahsildars? It can hardly be so; and I cannot also think that the representatives of the people have come down here to throw obstacles in the way of Government in working the Government machinery as smooth as possible. The solution of this problem is a serious one. A compromise should be effected in the interests of the people at large and it cannot be done without forgetting the last sentence of the memorable message of His Highness the Maha Raja to this august assembly which runs as follows:—

"I look up with confidence to you and to the officers of my Government *to work in harmony, trying your best to understand each other* and in a spirit of confidence and sympathy, making the welfare of my beloved subjects *your common concern.*"

I should like to have this passage written in gold characters and hung in a conspicuous place in this Hall for constant reference and to serve as a guide to the members of this Council.

To respect the command of His Highness the Maha Raja and to work in harmony, I am strongly of opinion that this House should support the Government in retaining the post of Assistant Tahsildars if they are of opinion that, in the interests of people whom we have the honor to represent, the Assistant Tahsildars are highly necessary at present.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, Mr. Karayalar with true devotion and loyalty has reminded us of the

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gracious message of His Highness the Maha Raja to the Legislative Council. I also take my stand on the very sentence quoted by him. I wish the officers who represent Government in this Council will also remember those sentences and try to work in harmony with us.

The Assistant Tahsildar, Sir, is both sinned against and sinning. We, sitting in this Council, dislike him because we have, year after year, to vote his salary. The people of Travancore dislike him because he has to work a very unpopular regulation. My friend Mr. Nidiry pointed out that the unpopularity of an Assistant Tahsildar, is not different from the unpopularity of a magistrate. There is one qualification, Sir, which presents itself to my mind. With regard to cases decided by magistrates, a magistrate can give a judgment only in favour of one party so that if he gives an adverse judgment to one party, he will have the gratitude of the party in favour of whom he gave his judgment. But the decisions of the Assistant Tahsildars are often given in favour of Government. Government being an impersonal abstraction, the same kind of gratitude is not available to the Assistant Tahsildar. I find it very difficult to accept certain arguments brought before the House. I know, as a matter of fact, that the Assistant Tahsildar is not only unpopular but he likes to be relieved of his duties, as early as possible. (*Laughter.*) A good number of young men, plucky fellows with plenty of education have told me that it was a great mistake in their lives that they accepted the Assistant Tahsildarship, because day in and day out they have to work in the hot sun in order to get on. He is invariably looked upon as a surveyor while as a matter of fact the Tahsildar is looked up to as a great officer. Officers on the other side, the Chief Secretary, Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, Mr. Robinson and others, who have considerable experience of field work, with very great emphasis, pointed out that it is absolutely necessary that the system of Assistant Tahsildars should be maintained, while on the other, representatives of the people on this side of the House say that whatever be the results, the Assistant Tahsildars should be abolished. I may point out that the Revenue Department has not been doing its work satisfactorily for a very long time. Last year, this time, I quoted from Hon'ble Mr. Ramaiengar's Settlement Memorandum to the effect that even at that time this disappointment had gone to such an extent and the demarcation work etc., were heavily in arrears. Enquiries were ordered and Dewan after Dewan who presided over the administration has been very vigilant; and yet the revenue officers did not do their work well. The present Dewan, soon after assuming charge, pointed out this defect and introduced the new arrangement. The very next year, the Dewan pointed out in his address to the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the Assistant Tahsildars had not been doing their work properly. From all these I want to show that the Government have been for some time past trying to give a quietus to this most difficult matter. The Revenue Department, Sir, I must observe, is in a state of flux. This morning we heard that the areas of the *pakuthies* have to be modified, that they have to be divided, that either

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

the Devicolam Commissioner or the Assistant to the Commissioner should be abolished and that suitable arrangement made for the efficient conduct of the income tax work in the Revenue Department. To my mind, it appears there is a host of these difficulties in future. We must have a regular methodised system of land revenue administration. If Government only make rules and if the officers do not do their work, if at the end of the year Government come to us in order to sanction the amount, we are really in a difficult situation. If, on the other hand, before these schemes are pushed on, Government would refer the whole question to a body of competent men and follow a systematic scheme, the difficulties could be averted. However as the Government have come to the Council for the grant I should take my stand on the usual constitutional practice. We will ask to redress all our grievances. Having accepted the arrangement of Assistant Tahsildars and having undertaken to give the grant, my point is that, if the Government will give an undertaking that before next year this time, they will be pleased to appoint an efficient committee to consider this question and place the measure before this Council for its consideration and acceptance, I for one would not like to disturb the arrangement as the work has been partly done. We should allow the staff in order to expedite that work. I personally am of opinion that the work should be continued, but on this distinct understanding, that the whole question of revenue administration will be looked into and decided. Another aspect is that this Council has to decide whether the Assistant Tahsildars should be continued or not after considering all connected matters.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, there are few arrears in *pokkuvaravu* cases, and it is desirable that these cases are disposed of.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A little louder, please.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I see that a few cases are in arrears and I am very desirous that these cases are disposed of. I sincerely believe that the Tahsildars now relieved of the magisterial and Devaswom work will be able to clear off these arrears. Even granting for argument's sake that the Tahsildars will not be able to clear off these arrears, I think we shall not be justified in continuing the existence of the Assistant Tahsildars for another moment. As far as I have been able to understand from Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, the principal work of the Assistant Tahsildars is detection of *porambóke* cases and correction of the measurements of the last settlement. That is the most objectionable part of their work. I do not mean to say that the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja like to trespass on *poramboke*s. The fact is that the last survey settlement measurements are incorrect. As a matter of fact, small canals that were in existence at the time of the settlement and which measured only 10 or 11 links, now measure 50 links. There are very many instances of this

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kind. Moreover, cocoanut trees which appear to be 80 years and more old are, according to the present survey measurement, in *porambokes*. There are a number of judical pronouncements and pronouncements from the heads of administration that the old measurements are incorrect. Under these circumstances, I submit that to detect these cases and to treat them as *poramboke* cases is unjust. The only thing is that these lands are not treated as they ought to have been. Our compounds are not regular squares or parallelograms. There may be curves in the corners. There may be juttings into rivers and canals. At the time of the last survey, these curves were not taken into consideration. Now these are considered as *porambokes* whereas, as a matter of fact, they are not. My opinion is that to continue the officers for another moment would be unjust. It will be a great hardship to the people and due to no fault of theirs. The Government servants employed for land settlement have erred, and now to make the people suffer and pay the penalty for the errors of the Government servants would, I submit, be rather very hard. I would earnestly request Government not to take up these cases, not because the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja who have trespassed should be allowed to continue there, but because the past work is unsatisfactory and because, unless a re-survey is undertaken by Government, this kind of detection of *porambokes* would cause great hardship. For these reasons, more than for any other, I support the motion which has been so ably moved by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pathanamtitta*): I move for a closure.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I second it.

The motion for closure was then put to the House and carried.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I have nothing more to add.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, it has been suggested by some of the members that the Assistant Tahsildars may be disbanded, the Taluk Surveyors restored to the taluks, the permanent accountants and peons reverted to the *pakuthies* and the land records work done by the normal *pakuthi* staff under the supervision of the Tahsildar, and presumably subject to the professional control and guidance of the Superintendent of Survey and his Assistant. This will mean a complete reversion to the state of affairs that existed before the 1st Kumbhom, 1096, when the present scheme was introduced. The arrangement proposed was the one that obtained between 1090 and 1096 and it has had a good trial for a period of six and a half years. How unsatisfactory this arrangement was, and the state of confusion to which matters drifted, have been clearly explained in the words of the Superintendent of Survey in the preamble to G. O. No. 12134/L. R., dated the 30th December, 1920, introducing the present scheme. It is to avoid the evils of the old system that the present arrangements were carefully thought out and introduced and it will be unfortunate if this House should, at a stage when things have

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

gone on for two and a half years and a fair progress has been achieved and when the Assistant Tahsildars have by past experience secured a grasp of their work, decide to go back on the scheme and revert to the former arrangements. It is hardly necessary to argue the point that the Assistant Tahsildars are a superior lot as compared with the Taluk Surveyors of old and if, in the discharge of their work there is so much complaint, on the ground of encroachment cases being taken, surely matters will not be any the better, if instead, the Taluk Surveyors are put on the work. The latter men have been tried between the years 1084 and 1096 and they were deliberately replaced by the present Assistant Tahsildars. Even if the Council should decide to give the Taluk Surveyors a few additional accountants and peons, they will not be able to do the revenue and survey work which the Assistant Tahsildars are now doing and there will be no comparison between the quality of work as done by the two sets of officers. The real thing that stands in the way of normal revenue staff going on with current land records work is the heavy volume of arrears under sub-division work and the inability of the *pakuthi* staff to clear them. This is due to the long interval that has elapsed from the time of the last survey to this date. If, therefore, as in British India, the arrears are worked off, and the future maintenance of land records saddled upon the normal revenue staff, things should work smoothly. Further, the Tahsildars with their present multifarious duties will not be able to spend 20 to 25 days in a month in the *pakuthies*, like the Assistant Tahsildars, to supervise the work of the accountants, even if it is presumed that they possess the requisite amount of technical knowledge of survey, to check their work. This is the reason for the appointment of specially trained men as Assistant Tahsildars. It is easily said that the Tahsildar's hands are free because the magisterial, Devaswom and Maramat work have been taken away from them. The correspondence and other work connected with Devaswoms was but nominal and there was no appreciable work under Maramat in most of the taluks. What little work had to be done under the latter item was primarily looked after by the *Aminadar* attached to the taluk, and the saving of time to the Tahsildars under this item is very little. It has to be admitted that some appreciable relief has been afforded to some of the Tahsildars under magisterial work. But the reduction of work secured under the above three items is more than compensated by the income tax work which has been newly given to them from the beginning of 1097. The Income Tax Regulation is a very intricate regulation to work, and judging from the number of assessees, the Tahsildars have a large share of the work, as they had 1,076 assessees out of 2,245 assessees for the whole State in 1097. The institution of the annual *Jamabandy* which is so necessary for good revenue administration is another new item of work which the Tahsildars have to do, so that it is idle to say that the Tahsildars' work has been reduced and that they have much leisure for taking up more work. The Assistant Tahsildars have made over to the

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Tahsildars 35,903 encroachment cases; and of these the latter were able to dispose of only 10,926 cases or 30 per cent. before the close of Edavam 1098. There are therefore 24,977 cases still pending with them and more cases will be transferred to them by the Assistant Tahsildars in future months. Owing to the labours of the *Puduval* survey staff and the land records staff, 69,518 acres of *puduval* lands have been surveyed and made available for registry till the end of Medam 1098. Proceedings for the registry of this area have to be taken. At the close of Medam 1098, the Tahsildars had on their files 12,080 *puduval* cases pending disposal. It will therefore be physically impossible for the Tahsildars to find time to clear off the arrears of land records work, if the Assistant Tahsildars are withdrawn and even if the special staff is transferred to the Tahsildars. They have also to attend to the future maintenance of land records in those *pakuthies* in which the arrears have been cleared and from which the special staff has been withdrawn. When the full-time Assistant Tahsildars are finding it tough to cope with the work, it will surely not be possible for the Tahsildars, with their multifarious duties, to take up and work off the arrears of land records work. Even at the risk of tiring the patience of this House, I shall mention the main items of work which Tahsildars have to do at present.

PRESIDENT : It hardly arises here, Mr. Robinson.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : May I ask Mr. Robinson before he sits down whether he has any middle course to suggest between the position of the Government and that of the non-official members ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner*) : I don't think there is any middle course possible. I can accept Mr. Velu Pillai's suggestion to try the Assistant Tahsildars for the two years spoken of in July last. Those two years have not expired.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Kumara Pillai, do you press your motion for a division ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Before I put the motion to vote, I would say one word by way of explanation in regard to one or two misunderstandings by Mr. Panjikaran and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai *viz.*, that the existing survey is inaccurate, and that the work of the Assistant Tahsildars could not be fruitful. Granting that the existing survey is wrong, as it is in some cases, what is the remedy that you suggest ? You suggest a re-survey. What are the Assistant Tahsildars now doing ? They are doing supplemental survey where the framework is good. They correct errors in the original plottings and detect *porambokes* where they have been left out. Suppose we sanction a resurvey. There will be a re-survey party. What is it going to consist of ? It is going to consist of men who are, in status, equal to the Assistant Tahsildars, or

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

very probably, inferior to them. The quality of work done must certainly be much inferior to that of the Assistant Tahsildars who by their training and educational qualifications are much more fitted for the work. Re-survey in a taluk will take one or two years. The cost may be a lakh or two. The work will be rushed through and the quality of the work will be unsatisfactory. The existing survey is not generally wrong but whenever it is wrong the Assistant Tahsildars correct it and the object of the Assistant Tahsildars' supplemental survey is to set at rest all disputes once for all.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai said that copies of the *ozhugus* cannot be obtained. Copies should and would certainly be supplied. I have issued circulars to that effect. Only ten days ago I issued a circular that copies of *ozhugus* should not be with-held for non-payment of dues and must be supplied promptly.

I hope I have made myself clear. The work expected by re-survey is being done more satisfactorily than by a re-survey party.

As regards suits, I see Mr. Robinson has failed to reply. I find that the number of such suits filed against Government in 1097 and 1098 is actually less than that of the previous years. We have not collected information about notices of suits. My distinct impression is that they are not on the increase.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What about the *poramboke* cases that have been detected on account of the incorrect measurements?

PRESIDENT: We have got to go into each case and decide, and the whole procedure has been described at great length by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar. The thing has got to be taken up and gone through at some time or other. The sketch has to be prepared and opportunities given to the occupier to show that it is not *poramboke*, and each case has to be decided on its own merits.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): It will be a very great hardship to the poor victims.

PRESIDENT: If you do not set at rest these disputes now, you will be giving a powerful weapon to the subordinates to harass the people.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put this motion to vote. The motion was then put to the vote and lost, 19 voting *for* and 25 *against*.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I demand a poll.

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The House then divided as follows:

AYES-20.

1.	Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai	11.	Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
2.	,, A. Govinda Menon.	12.	,, J. John Nidiry.
3.	,, A. Hoogewerf	13.	,, M. N. Pillai.
4.	,, C. Kochukunju Pillai.	14.	,, N. Padmanabha Pillai.
5.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	15.	,, Joseph Panjikaran.
6.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	16.	,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
7.	,, Tariatu Kunjitomman.	17.	,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
8.	,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	18.	,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
9.	Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikapalli.	19.	,, K. P. Raman Pillai.
10.	Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.	20.	,, T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES-26.

1.	Mr. I. C. Chacko.	14.	Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
2.	,, Paul V. Daniel	15.	,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
3.	,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	16.	,, P. Paramesvaran.
4.	,, K. George	17.	,, W. H. Pitt.
5.	,, L. C. Hodgson	18.	,, K. C. Raja Raja Varma.
6.	,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.	19.	,, C. Ramankunju.
7.	Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar	20.	,, T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
8.	Mr. R. Krishna Pillai	21.	Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
9.	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	22.	Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
10.	Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan	23.	,, V. Subba Aiyar.
11.	Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai	24.	,, S. Subramanya Karayalar.
12.	,, John Mackie	25.	,, A. J. Van Ross
13.	,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai	26.	,, Trivikramar Vasudevar.

Motion 17.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

17. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,289 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons by Rs. 17,000.

I have already indicated in my speech that a medium course is possible, as the present Tahsildars are considerably relieved owing to the separation of the Devaswom and magisterial functions and by the diversion of all the revenue survey parties and employment of all the taluk surveyors and half the number of Assistant Tahsildars. I submit that it would be possible for them to go on with the land records work and make it current. For these reasons I make this motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say than what I have already said. I beg to oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: Has any other gentlemen anything to say?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I shall say a word, Sir. If the Assistant Tahsildars are able to do any work and if their work is to the advantage of the State, I am for having

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[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

the scheme worked throughout the State. But there is no necessity to try the experiment in some taluks so that some taluks may be in a position of vantage in this matter. If the work is good, it must be extended to all the taluks. If it is bad, it must be abandoned. On that ground I support the motion.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, the fact that the Tahsildars have, of late, been relieved of the Devaswom and magisterial work has led many to think that the retention of the Assistant Tahsildar is not necessary. But, on earnest enquiry, I learn that they have sufficient work to do. The Tahsildars appear as if they have been placed in hot water and as if great pressure has been brought to bear upon them. Unless a Tahsildar is both physically and mentally capable, I think, he would not be able to do his work satisfactorily. Sir, in a conversation between two officers I heard one officer warning the other not to try for a Tahsildar's place since, at present, it would be very difficult to perform the duties of a Tahsildar to the satisfaction of the Government. So Sir, from what I was able to learn and observe, I think the Tahsildars have sufficient work to do. The opinion therefore, that the Tahsildars would be able to do the work of the Assistant Tahsildars as well is wrong.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tavala*): ஜனங்களுடைய பணத்தை அவர்களுக்கு உபகாரமில்லாமல் சிலவு செய்யவேணுமென்று கெவண்மென்றுக்கு உத்தேசமே அல்லா. ஆனல் இப்போது அஸிஸ்ற்றென்று தகசில்தார் உத்தியோகம் வேண்டாம். வேண்டாமென்று ஒவ்வொருவரும் சொல்லப்பட்ட உத்தேசம் வேறென்றுமல்லா. முன்செய்திட்டுள்ள சாலை அளவு சரியல்லா என்றும் அதை சரிபார்க்காமலும் பரிசோதிக்காமலும் புறம் போக்கும் சப்டிவிஷனும் (sub-division) மாத்திரம் பார்த்து வருகிறார்கள் என்றும் அதுகொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு பிரயோஜனமுமில்லை என்றும் ஜனங்களுக்கு உபத்திரபத்தைத்தான் கொடுத்துவருகிறார்க ளென்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அதினல் இப்போது அஸிஸ்ற்றென் றுதகசில்தார்மார் செய்யபட்ட வேலையை நிறுத்தி அவர்களைகொண்டு மெல் ரிசர்வெ செய்யசொன்னல் நலமாயிருக்குமென்றும் என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். தவிரவும் இப்போது அக்கவுண்டென்று (accountant) யாரைகொண்டு இத்தனை இத்தனை நம்பர் பரிசோதித்தால்தான் சம்பளமென்றும் அடங்கலாயிகொடுத்து வருகிற ஏர்ப்பாடும் நிறுத்தணம். அவர்களுடைய அடங்கல் பிரகாரமுள்ள வேலைகளை தீர்க்கமுடியாமல் வீட்டிலிருந்தே கணக்குகள் கொடுத்து வருகிற ஏர்ப்பாட்டிலல் ஒரு பிரயோசனமுமில்லை. முன்ஸர்வெ செய்தபலன்தான். முன் கழிந்த ஸர்வெ அளவை வச்சுபார்த்தால் ஒன்றும் சரிப்பட மாட்டாது. முன் பன்னிரண்டாமாண்டு கண்டெழுத்தின்பேரில் பதிஞ்ச பூமியப்போது பார்த்தால் பிரம்போக்காயிருக்கும். அது குடிகளுக்கு தெரியாது. அதை இப்போது பிரம்போக்கு சட்டப்பிரகாரம் எடுத்து அவர்களை சிக்ஷிக்கிறதாயிருந்தால் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டம்தான். அஸிஸ்ற்றெ

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ன்று தகசில்தார் செய்திட்டிள்ள தீர்மானம் சரியல்லாவென்று மேல்அப்பீல் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமானல் ரெப்பவும் கஷ்டமும் நஷ்டமும் சேரப்படுகிறது. ஆனதினல் பாவப்பெட்ட குடிகள் தன் பூமியையும் யினந்து நஷ்டத்துக்கும் ஆளாக வேண்டியதாயிவருகிறது.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai for the reason that, since the Assistant Tahsildars are intended to work off the arrears in such Taluks where the Government think that the arrears are very heavy, they may employ the 13 Assistant Tahsildars that Mr. Raman Pillai wants to be retained. So that if the entire scheme cannot be abandoned at least, to the extent of 13 Tahsildars, there can be a reduction and I therefore heartily support the scheme.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I regret to find that Mr. Robinson opposes this alternative scheme thereby making himself inconsistent with the position which his predecessor in office took up this time last year. He said that, with some assistance, the Tahsildars will be in a position to go on with the Land Records Maintenance work and I also drew the attention of the House to the statement made by Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma to the effect that some of the work the Tahsildars themselves will be able to do. If that is so, I submit that to oppose the motion in its entirety would be to make the position of Government inconsistent with what they declared last year. I think it is wrong to divide the work of a Taluk and appoint a special man to look after that work. According to what I consider right, the Tahsildar must be entirely responsible for the quality and quantity of work done. The Assistant Tahsildar will be a sort of technical supervising officer as the sub-assistant was during the days of taluk surveyors. My friend Mr. Velu Pillai is wrong when he assumes that the good or the evil of the Assistant Tahsildars will be confined to a few taluks; that is not the purport of my scheme. He will be supervising the maintenance work in more than one taluk; three or four taluks will be clubbed together for the purpose of supervision.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask where that scheme was adumbrated? I did not find it in his speech.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I plead guilty for not having adumbrated that scheme. I think the House agreed for some cut being made on the Assistant Tahsildar motion. (*Laughter*). I was confident that the Government or the Land Revenue Commissioner would come forward with some scheme when it would be time for the House to consider it. So I did not come forward with the scheme. I have a cut and ready scheme. My submission is that for three or four taluks there should be an Assistant Tahsildar who will take the place of the old Survey Sub-Assistant. The supervision now exercised by the Land Records Superintendent is entirely inadequate because for the whole State there is only one person to supervise the work, the Assistant Tahsildar doing practical field work. So that if this is done, we shall be

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taking full advantage of the technical and educational qualification and superior training given to the Assistant Tahsildar. The good or evil of his work will be enjoyed by all the taluks in the State. So I press the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to say much on this point. The House has agreed that the Assistant Tahsildars are necessary. I am not inconsistent about it as Mr. Raman Pillai says, because the matter has been very carefully considered and the present full staff proposed for the land records is absolutely necessary. If the staff is reduced, it will necessarily take a longer time for the work to be completed. The more you reduce, the more difficult it is to carry out the present programme, and longer time will be required to complete the work.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 15 voting *for* and 25 *against*.

Motions 18 to 24.

The following motions were not made :

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

18. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by Rs. 44,375 (abolition of the temporary establishment).

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

19. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by Rs. 44,375 (abolition of the temporary establishment).

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

20. To omit the allotment of Rs. 33,880 for temporary accountants and peons.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

21. To omit the allotment of Rs. 90 for hot weather charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

22. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,695 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 2,960.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

23. To reduce the allotmemt of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

24. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

Motion 25.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I beg to make the following motion :

25. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

The object of my motion is to draw the attention of this House to the change that has been brought about by the new scheme whereby the

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Assistant Tahsildars are from 1099 transferred to the Land Records Superintendent's office from the Land Revenue Department. It would appear that then there will be no duality of control between the Division Peishkar and the Land Revenue Commissioner on the one hand and the Land Records Superintendent on the other. Sir, it will be conceded that the Land Records Maintenance work forms an important part of the regular Land Revenue Administration and that being so I cannot support a scheme which aims at separating the controlling agencies of the two departments. The Assistant Tahsildars will not hereafter be controlled by the Division Peishkar or the Tahsildar. On principle, I seriously object to such a proposal. For, ultimately, the Tahsildars and Peishkars are really responsible for the proper administration of the Land Revenue Department. It is entirely erroneous to transfer these Assistant Tahsildars from the Land Revenue Department to the Land Records Superintendent under the immediate control only of the Land Records Superintendent. On that principle I move for the reduction of Rs. 100.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I have made clear when making my first speech that the land records staff will only be attending to the technical part of the work and the rest of the work will have to be solely examined and done by the Tahsildars, and the Assistant Tahsildars will still be under the control of the Land Revenue Commissioner.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I want to know whether the Dewan Peishkar will have any control over the Assistant Tahsildars' work hereafter.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Not under the contemplated change.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, in regard to the deviation proposed in the working out of the scheme in 1099 referred to by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, I would say that it was done with a view to avoid the delay in the transmission of correspondence from the Assistant Tahsildar to the Tahsildar and Peishkar and then to the Land Records Superintendent and *vice versa*. This arrangement is also calculated to ensure greater out-turn of work The Assistant Tahsildars are doing intensive land records work. So far as *porambokes* are concerned, the Assistant Tahsildar surveys and demarcates areas, and in cases of encroachments, a sketch and *mahazar* and a report are prepared and sent to the Tahsildar. The latter takes further action under the Land Conservancy Regulation, and if the occupation is unobjectionable, to register or lease the area covered by the encroachment. Similarly, in the case of puduval sub-division work, the sketches are prepared by the Assistant Tahsildar and transferred to the Tahsildar. He starts further action to assign lands under the *Puduval* Rules. In regard to *pokkuvaravu* cases, orders passed in the cases by the Assistant Tahsildar are transferred to the Tahsildar, and he issues *pattas*. There is therefore no break in the continuity of work even in the altered arrangement proposed for 1099. Neither

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the Peishkar nor the Tahsildar need have any supervision over the land records work until the arrears are cleared and the records are made over to the Tahsildar *pakuthi* by *pakuthi* as their technical work is supervised by the officer competent for the purpose, *i. e.*, the Land Records Superintendent. The Tahsildar will thereafter be responsible for the future maintenance of land records. The Assistant Tahsildars will work directly under the Land Records Superintendent and correspond direct with him. The Land Records Superintendent will check the work of the Assistant Tahsildars and the whole work will be subject to the superior control of the Land Revenue Commissioner. This is done with a view to clear off the arrears within the shortest time possible.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 26.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I proposed a cut of Rs. 5 with the view that in case the Assistant Tahsildars are to go—

PRESIDENT: Are you moving the motion?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am giving it up with an explanation.

PRESIDENT: If you do not move, you cannot make any explanation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am just submitting the explanation and then I am withdrawing the motion. It was in view of the fact that the Land Records Superintendent has got a higher pay for his work but in view of the fact that the original motion against the Assistant Tahsildars was lost, I allow this also to be sacrificed along with that. (*Laughter*).

The following motion was not made:

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

26. To reduce the allotment for land records establishment by Rs. 5.

Motions 27 to 31.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

27. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 10,000.

MR. T. KUMABA PILLAI:

28. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 9,020.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

29. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 9,020.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

30. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for local allowances to field establlishment.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

31. To omit the allotment of Rs. 11,440 for head quarters office staff (under temporary puduval survey staff).

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Motion 32.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

32. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875, for establishment for a party for original survey work.

Last year also this party came in for a cut and it was decided to abolish one of them. I find this is an unnecessary work. The *puduvals* are not being sold. When there are applications, it will be time enough to survey them and divide them into blocks while the checking of the measurement of the sub-divisions of the minor circuits could very well be undertaken by the existing land records maintenance party. Since there is this original survey party the Survey Superintendent and a large body of high-paid surveyors are engaged on this work and thereby their services are not available for work in connection with land records maintenance. I think if this reduction is made, the entire staff of the Survey Superintendent will be available for the land records maintenance work and along with his assistants he can go on with the work in certain taluks of the State. This will also help to expedite the abolition of the Revenue Survey Department sooner than it would otherwise be possible, because there is no knowing how long this original survey will take to finish. For these reasons, I move that this sum may be omitted.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Puduval Survey operations as is known to the Members of the House were started in the year 1096 and it has been going on since then. This scheme was introduced with a view to take up systematically and complete the supplemental survey required for facilitating the disposal of Puduval lands in such of the taluks in which there were large areas of *puduval* lands to be surveyed and assigned. According to the forecast made in the year 1096, the total area of the survey was 2,02,788 acres. Deducting the area already registered, there remained an area of 1,11,194 acres for survey and this area was supplemented subsequently by 24,282 acres by further lists furnished by the Revenue Department. So in all, the operation had to be confined to 1,35,476 acres.

PRESIDENT: This is a provision for original survey work. You have to explain the necessity for the allotment of Rs. 6,875.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The allotment is necessary for completing the 5052 acres that remains to be surveyed.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: I will repeat what Mr. Robinson said. He said that this provision is for original survey work of 5000 and odd acres.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In which taluk, please?

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*): In the taluks of Kottarakara, Pattanapuram, Kunnattur and Pattanamtitta.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know from Mr. Robinson whether this is covered by the applications already existing on the file or merely to facilitate future applications.

PRESIDENT: Many applications are pending.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether this survey is to facilitate the disposal of applications now pending.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): At the last budget session of this Council, the Council decided that no *new* minor circuits need be taken up for survey in view of the paucity of land applications. A small staff of surveyors was accordingly sanctioned for completing the original survey work in minor circuits which had already been taken up. That staff worked on to the end of the year but it was not able to finish the survey of the entire area in all those minor circuits which had been taken up. In 19 minor circuits, measuring on the whole 9,272 acres in the four taluks named by me, 4,220 acres have already been surveyed and there is a balance of 5,052 acres. The Survey Superintendent had instructions to take up for survey only those minor circuits for which there was a large demand as judged by the number of applications received. Unless therefore this House sanctions the amount for completing the survey of the 5,000 and odd acres, the survey of 4,220 acres already done in these minor circuits will have been done in vain. This staff is provided for finishing that work in 1099.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know, Sir, the total tax that is realisable on account of this original survey party since 1096?

PRESIDENT: On this area, you mean?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The total work of these original survey party in 1096. We were told that the money has been realised on account of *tharavila* and *thadivila*. My enquiry is what is the amount that is to come on account of the assignment of lands surveyed by the *puduval* survey party from 1096.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The exact amount is not known. Tax at one rupee per acre of land assigned is recoverable.

PRESIDENT: Approximately?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not the figures before me now.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

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The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 33 to 39.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the Demand had expired :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

33. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875 for establishment for a party for original survey works.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI —

34. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875 for establishment for a party for original survey work.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,929 for establishment for three correction parties by Rs. 3,000.

Revenue Survey—Supplies, Services and Contingencies.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

36. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,622 for contingencies for temporary puduval staff by Rs. 4,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

37. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,289 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 1,720.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,975 for revenue survey by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :—

39. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8·77 lakhs under Demand – I by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for this demand having been exhausted, I now place the whole demand before the House and move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8·77 lakhs —Rs. 100 be granted for this Demand.

The grant was made.

The House adjourned at 6-2 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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